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Near East & South Asia

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LD3012111488 [Editorial Report]

Pan Am Plane Crash Responsibility

Naji 'Allush, also known as Abu Ibrahim, leader of the Arab Popular Liberation Movement, and Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), both denied their groups' responsibility for the downing of the Pan Am jet over Scotland, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

The deputy secretary of the PFLP-GC called reports implicating his group "baseless," adding that only Israel would profit from this incident, AFP noted.

An editorial in the Egyptian paper AL-AKHBAR said Israel is the primary beneficiary of the plane crash as it is the party "seeking in every way" to prevent a U.S.-PLO dialogue and Israel has a record of planning this "type of crime," MENA reported.

Meanwhile, Radio Free Lebanon said there are "increasing signs" that Syria is involved in the plane crash.

Israel

The IDF killed three people attempting to infiltrate Israel from the Egyptian border, IDF radio reported.

An IDF helicopter crashed near Egypt while dropping border marks, killing one soldier and injuring three others, according to Jerusalem radio.

The crash was attributed to a "technical hitch."

In the territories, two youths were shot during stoning incidents and a West Bank hospital reported receiving two other patients suffering from gunshot wounds, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Palestinian Affairs

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's peace initiative as "a conspiracy against Palestinian people" and called Shamir the "basic obstacle" to peace, WAKH reported.

He said through the Palestinians' "wise use of violence" and "legitimate resistance methods" Israeli rulers will be made to recognize their rights.

Qaddumi also said he is "not optimistic" about the future of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, as the United States does not recognize Palestinians' right to self-determination or their independent state.

Press reports cited by WAKH indicated meetings took place recently between U.S. diplomats in Jerusalam and a number of Palestinian figures from the territories.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi thanked the Fatah Revolutionary Council for releasing the two French girls it held for over a year and repeated his appeal for the Council and "the other liberation movements in the Middle East" to release all remaining hostages, JANA reported.

Meetings of basic people's congresses continued for the 3d day throughout the country to discuss "U.S. terrorist threats" against Libya, JANA reported.

The congresses have denounced the United States and affirmed their readiness to defend the Al-Fatih revolution.

Syria

The Soviet Union is "exerting intensive diplomatic efforts" to help improve relations between Syria and Iraq, the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH reported.

In another report, the paper disclosed that Syrian forces have been put on maximum alert.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-GC Denies Involvement in Pan Am Bombing

NC2912192088 Paris AFP in English 1710 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Dec 29 (AFP)—A Palestinian group that U.S. officials reportedly consider the prime suspect for last week's Pan American airliner bombing denied responsibility on Thursday.

The group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), was named by Oliver Revell, executive director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as one of two groups with a history of using sophisticated explosives against civilian airliners, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

On Wednesday British officials confirmed that a bomb had caused the jumbo jet to break up in the air and plummet on to the Scottish border town of Lockerbie, killing 270 people.

But Talal Naji, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, said that the group was "against this kind of criminal operation targeting innocent citizens."

He said press reports implicating the group were "baseless".

The group, based in Syria, opposes the policies of Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who has renounced terrorism.

"Only Israel can profit from this attack and the Mosad—the Israeli intelligence service—has an interest in carrying out terrorist acts and then accusing the Palestinian people, in order to undermine the public image of this people," Mr. Naji said.

The group launched one of the Middle East's first suicide attacks in 1974, when one of its commandos attacked a position in northern Israel, killing 18 people and wounding 18 others.

The other group named by Mr. Revell, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES report published Wednesday, was 15 May, a Palestinian group headed by Abu Ibrahim that claimed responsibility for planting a bomb on a Pan Am flight from Tokyo to Honolulu in 1982.

But the leader of a group called the Popular Arab Liberation Movement, Naji 'Allush, who is also known as Abu Ibrahim, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Damascus that his group was not implicated in the sabotage of the Pan American Jumbo jet.

U.S. Diplomats Reportedly Meet West Bank Figures

JN3012074288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Dec (WAKH)—Press reports here today said meetings were held in the past few days between a number of Palestinian figures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and some U.S. diplomats in occupied Jerusalem.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cites a responsible source in the U.S. Administration as saying these meetings were a continuation of contacts that were held prior to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and that the United States is interested in listening to the stand of Palestinians in the occupied territories regarding the peace process in the region.

The source pointed out that Washington is not looking to find a Palestinian leadership alternative to the PLO through these contacts.

However, he explained that holding elections for heads of the municipal councils and halting the uprising for a specific period of time in return for releasing 1,200 political detainees from Israeli jails were among the topics discussed during these meetings.

'Arafat Chairs 'Uprising' Committee Meeting

JN2912171988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has chaired a meeting in Baghdad of the Higher Committee for Supporting the Palestinian Uprising.

A responsible Palestinian source told INA that this meeting comes in light of the PLO Executive Committee meetings, which concluded the day before yesterday.

The source added that following two meetings, the committee immediately began implementing the PLO Executive Committee's plan to support the uprising in all fields to confront the Zionist gangs' terrorist and repressive measures.

On another level, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has received the military attaches of the Arab and foreign embassies in Baghdad. The attaches congratulated 'Arafat on the establishment of the Palestinian state and on the PLO's political victories.

Al-Hasan Denies 'Real' Differences with Syria

JN2912202888 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 28 Dec 88 pp 1, 16

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] A Palestinian leader has affirmed that there is no political dispute worth mentioning between the PLO and Syria.

In an exclusive statement to AL-BAYAN, Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan has said that if there were secret differences between the PLO and Syria that he does not know about, then this is something different.

Abu al-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] said that since 1982, Syria has changed its priorities to make Lebanon its first problem and the Iraq-Iran war its second.

He also said that with the end of this war, and if it finds a solution to the Lebanese crisis, the Syrian-Palestinian door will be fully open and estrangement will disapper to the great benefit of the Arab world.

The Palestinian official praised current moves to improve Syria's relations with both Egypt and Iraq and referred to Saudi Arabia's role in this regard, expressing his happiness over these developments.

Al-Hasan added: We cannot move toward the world as effectively as we want without Arab backing.

He emphasized the need for Arab solidarity, which he described as water and air for the Palestinian question.

PLO Spokesman Voices Rejection of Israeli Plan
JN2912201688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (INA)—Official PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman has stressed that the PLO and the Palestinian people categorically reject the new Israeli plan, whose major objective is to entrench occupation through new false masks.

Commenting on the autonomy plan, which enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir seeks to propose on the pretex it is a peace initiative, the official PLO spokesman told INA that the Israeli authorities of repression are not qualified to supervise any form of elections.

He said that a sound step will be the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories and replacing them with UN forces to enable the Palestinian Arab people to express their opinion freely and to exercise their right to self-determination away from the repressive Zionist measures.

He added: The Israeli Government has only one choice; namely, to recognize Palestinian rights, which the world has recognized. However, resorting to autonomy formulas, which have become a thing of the past and which the Palestinian people have foiled through their mighty uprising, is only an exposed enemy attempt to show that it seeks peace.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman warned against the Zionist peace plan, saying that the true objective behind this plan is to continue occupation and repression against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman stressed that the uprising in the occupied territories will continue, that it is capable of foiling all the false Zionist alternatives, and to stress that anyone who seeks peace should contact the PLO in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian Doubts Government Will Be Formed
LD3012103288 Kuwait KUNA in English 0935 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 30 (KUNA)—A Palestinian official cast doubts here Friday over reports that the PLO will form a provisional government within the next two months despite optimistic statements by Palestinian officials in this regard.

The official, who sought anonymity, said in statements to local daily "AL-ANBA'", published here today, the present situation is inadequate for such a step, in addition to the fact that the USSR, Arab and European countries as well as the U.S. do not encourage the move.

Proclamation of such a government, furthermore, requires (?full committee) of all PLO factions to such a step, he added.

The PLO Executive Committee, he said, touched upon the issue in its recent meeting in Baghdad but came to no conclusions in this regard.

Official on Financial Support From Libya, Others
LD3012094188 Kuwait KUNA in English 0836 GMT 30 Dec 88

[By Dawud Sulayman]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 30 (KUNA)—A PLO official expressed hope here Friday [30 December] the Arab countries would put into force a resolution they had adopted at Algiers' extraordinary Arab summit calling for extending material support to the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation.

PLO Executive Committee member chairman of the Palestinian National Fund Jawid al-Ghusayn said in an interview with KUNA each and every Arab citizen should advocate the PLO and back the Palestinian people, who have been passing through a critical stage. Al-Ghusayn made a stop over here enroute to Abu Dhabi.

The Arab leaders endorsed in Algiers last June a financial plan calling for immediate payment of U.S. dollars 128 million in addition to a regular monthly sum of 43 million dollars in support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied land.

Al-Ghusayn noted that the PLO has received all in all 1.25 million dollars [figure as received] from the Arab countries during the last decade, with Saudi Arabia paying 850 million.

The rest of the Arab countries either paid only 50 per cent of their financial obligations determined by Baghdad's Arab summit in [year indistinct] or 25 per cent of their shares, he said noting that some countries had failed to abide by the decision.

The Palestinian official highlighted that Libya pays five million dollars per month in support of the uprising which has been flaring up for approximately [numbers indistinct] months in (?succession).

Iraq, he added, paid this year a sum of 50 million dollars and since the last four months Baghdad has been paying four millions a month.

Al-Ghusayn said Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have extended support to the uprising's fund and to the United Nations relief and works agency.

Speaking of the multi-sided responsibilities of the PLO, the fund's chairman said the Palestinian organization is in charge of martyrs families, fighters, Red Crescent, diplomatic missions abroad, compensation for prisoners' families, and is (?committed) to many other tasks.

Israeli occupation authorities have been taking tough measures to block access of funds to the Palestinian people under occupation, he said, adding that the PLO is considering plans for developing the national economy in the occupied Palestinian land despite (?Zionist) hindrances.

The Palestinian National Fund was founded in 1966 in Damascus along with the establishment of the PLO.

DFLP, PFLP Reject 'Truce' With Israel

JN2912185388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Reacting to media reports that certain Palestinian circles in the occupied territory have accepted a temporary truce with Israel to provide an appropriate atmosphere for negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli authorities, the DFLP and the PFLP issued two statements today, affirming the need for continuing and escalating the uprising in the occupied territories.

The PFLP said that the suspect voices represent only themsleves and those in whose name they speak and do not represent the uprising and its leadership in any way. These voices are a blatant deviation from the PNC decision and an insult to the uprising and the people of the uprising, posing the greatest threat to the Palestinian national interests, the statement added.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit Meeting Continues in Islamabad

Ministers Meet Yaqub Khan

BK2712163688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] The foreign minister of Bangladesh, Anisul Islam Mahmud, and the Indian external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, had separate meetings with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

The Indian minister of state for external affairs, Natwar Singh, met the prime minister's adviser to foreign affairs and national security, Iqbal Akhund, in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on matters pertaining to SAARC summit and bilateral issues of mutual interest.

India's Rao Meets Yaqub Khan

BK2712162288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has urged the SAARC nations to make a modest beginning toward cooperation in trade and industry.

Addressing the sixth session of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Islamabad this evening, Mr Rao said that the region must cooperate to remove some of the anomalies in protectionist policy in trade and industry before embarking on cooperation in these areas. The time has come to undertake activities which can directly augment production, expand trade, and solve common problems through research and field activities.

He said the countries of the region should strive to remove the anomalies in the protectionist policy in trade and industry before embarking on cooperation in these areas.

Expressing concern at the international economic situation, the external affairs minister said that the living standard in most developing countries had declined. At this critical time it is important for SAARC countries to work unitedly to create a more conducive external environment.

Mr Rao said that the cooperation among the SAARC countries is now broad-based as the non-governmental organization are also involved in its activities.

He said SAARC, however, is yet to make a beginning toward a systematic utilization of our complementarities and potentialities for development. Referring to the planners recommendations for the development of human resources and focus on immediate and long-term perspective of development, the minister said that these agreed fully with the objectives of our national plans.

AIR special correspondent Sushil Chopra reports that the SAARC foreign ministers have approved a draft declaration which will be recommendation to the SAARC leaders for their consideration.

Mr Narsimha Rao separately met the Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, for nearly 35 minutes. Our special correspondent Neelam Kataria reports that the meeting was held in an extremely cordial atmosphere.

The two leaders expressed their keen desire to improve relations between India and Pakistan.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the mutual regard and personal rapport between the two prime ministers must be build up and expanded.

Mr Narasimha Rao said that the new situation in Pakistan is positive for relations between the two countries.

He said that both the leaders are concentrating on the future and not on the past. Mr Rao added that expectations among the people of the two countries have been raised for improved relations and we cannot go counter to these.

Bhutto Makes Welcoming Address

BK2912153388 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1300 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Welcoming speech by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inaugurating the fourth SAARC summit, in the conference hall of the State Bank Building, Islamabad—live]

[Text] Distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen. It is my great privilege to welcome all of you to Islamabad on behalf of the democratic government and the people of Pakistan. For me personally and for the Pakistan People's Party's representative government, your presence here is a source of honor and of pleasure. We hope that your brief stay in Islamabad will be both pleasant and fruitful.

Pakistan was entrusted with the honor of hosting the fourth SAARC summit only a few months ago. We happily accepted this responsibility as a mark of our commitment to the principles of the SAARC and the vital importance we attach to the annual summit meeting.

The people of Pakistan fervently hope—and I am sure, this reflects the aspirations of all the people in South Asia—that cooperation among our countries will increase and take concrete shape and that our region should become an area of peace, security, prosperity, and cooperation.

I am sure I speak on behalf of all the heads of state and government present here in expressing our profound appreciation and gratitude to King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal for his majesty's outstanding personal contribution to the development of our association. The Kathmandu summit was a historic landmark in the development of SAARC.

It saw the signing of agreements on food security reserves and on the curbing of terrorism. These are two areas of vital concern not only to our own region, but to the entire international community.

During Nepal's tenure as chairman of SAARC, his majesty's personal interest and guidance has helped to streamline and strengthen SAARC activities. Nepal's vigorous efforts and encouragement have enabled the SAARC Secretariat to become an efficiently functioning organization.

Your Majesties and Excellencies, I would like also to extend a special welcome to His Excellency President Jayewardene who made a special gesture in coming to attend this meeting. His contribution to SAARC was of immense value to the organization in its formative years.

As he leaves the office of the president of Sri Lanka, we extend to him our best wishes for his health and happiness. I wish to also pay tribute to the secretary general of the SAARC Secretariat, Mr Abul Ahsan. His hard work, skill and dedication have made a valuable contribution to the implementation of SAARC programs.

We are meeting at the close of an auspicious and eventful year. For the people of Pakistan, the year has a historic significance in that it has seen the return of democracy and constitutional rule to our country. We have put an end to dictatorship and to inhumanity. The Pakistan that you visit today is a new, self-confident Pakistan, revitalized by the restoration of democracy and a fresh breath of freedom.

Our government has not only freed political prisoners and restored fundamental rights, but is dedicated to humanism through social democracy. The people of Pakistan honored me as the directly-elected prime minister only a few weeks ago after the holding of party-based elections in Pakistan in which the Pakistan People's Party emerged as the single largest parliamentary group.

The general election held here last month was a demonstration of the deep commitment of the people of Pakistan to peace, progress, and prosperity. It was an affirmation by the poor and the exploited, the weak and the dispossessed to shape their own destiny.

The peaceful transition to democracy marked not only the culmination of a peaceful political movement by the democratic forces in Pakistan, but also reflects the sense of responsibility and maturity of our people. It convincingly disproved the notion that the people of developing countries are not fit for democracy.

It is the policy of our legal and constitutional government to strengthen the roots of democracy and to ensure that the fundamental rights and freedom are protected and given substance. We believe that the people must fully participate in the task of nation-building and share in the process of progress.

We are determined to build a just and forward-looking society so that Pakistan can enter the 21st century as a progressive and self-reliant member of the international community, a nation free of discrimination and backwardness.

I am sure that the same ambitions are amidst the governments and the people of all the countries represented here. It is evident that cooperation among us will make our task easier, and that is how we can harness our energies and resources and resolve our differences. South Asia can emerge as one of the world's centers of progress and prosperity.

Our region is home to one-fifth of the total population of the world. It is a region rich in resources, skill and production and energy. Taken together, our countries constitute a vast internal market for goods and services of every kind and the region has the potential to become one of the great centers of economic power in the world. But unfortunately, singly and together, we are far from achieving this potential.

Hunger, unemployment, malnutrition, slums, stalk the lives of a large number of our people and are reflections of the society that poverty and high infant mortality creates.

Our population growth limits, if not negates, our efforts at rapid social and economic development. There are many causes for this state of affairs. Some of these lie beyond our control.

As developing nations, the South Asian countries face a global economic environment that is not conducive to the rapid development of poorer countries. The existing international economic system and structures are inequitable and have an inherent tendency to perpetuate and widen the gap between the rich and poor countries.

The industrialized countries, contrary to their professed belief in a free market economy, have at times erected tariff and and nontariff walls to protect the economic sectors in which they face competition from developing countries.

Most Third World countries are trapped in a vicious circle of indebtness and economic dependence. Third World debt has now reached the stagnating figure of U.S. $1,300 billion.

This debt is evidence of the structural imbalance between the developed and developing countries. It is also an index of the extent to which Third World borrowings helped to keep the wheels of trade and industry turning in the creditor countries at a time of economic recession for the latter.

It is evident that if economies of the debtor countries are [words indistinct] slow down in order to meet the debt obligation, they will not be the only one to suffer. The North-South dialogue to attain equilibrium and justice in international economic relation has been deadlocked for too long.

The time has come to renew discussions on the international economic situation and to seek solution of outstanding problems and difficulties for the mutual benefits of both the developing and the developed countries.

It is indeed encouraging that major European countries and Japan are beginning to realize the importance of this question.

We hope that the new United States Government of President-elect George Bush will take a responsive attitude on this matter.

In this we have been encouraged by the announcement by the president-elect of a new U.S. strategy on the global debt issue. This holds the prospects of injecting new life into the stalled North-South dialogue.

An increasingly important element of global economic reform is greater South-South cooperation. It is in this context, that regional cooperation of the SAARC is of vital importance and assumes an international dimension. And the SAARC has indeed come a long way since the Dhaka summit where the momentous decision was taken to launch the association.

From that first meeting through the Bangalore and Kathmandu summits to the present one in Islamabad we have seen the concept of regional cooperation evolving to a constructive and action-oriented program. The institutional infrastructure of SAARC is beginning to take shape.

However, at the same time, we must recognize in frankness that the gap between the promises of SAARC and the reality of its accomplishments still remain large.

It is natural that the progress has been slow and piecemeal so far since our focus had been on areas that offered the most scope for consensus. Similar associations in other regions of the world also made slow progress in the formative stages.

Nevertheless, in its 8 [figure as heard] years of existence, the organization has tended to occupy much of its time in making studies, holding conferences and seminars, and exploring the grounds. We have now the time to think about the greater effort and more concrete action from the association and from ourselves as member countries.

Pakistan's views on the future work of the association was set out in the statement made by our foreign minister. I need not, therefore, elaborate on the matter.

I should like however to emphasize one or two items to which we attach particular importance. This has been a year of major calamities in a number of South Asian countries.

Floods and earthquakes have caused grave devastations in towns and countryside, resulting in loss of life and property. The governments concerned, each in its own way, took speedy measures to provide relief to their people and to alleviate the ravages caused by these calamities. Member countries fortunate enough to be spared themselves promptly offered relief assistance to reduce the burden of suffering.

These manifestations of human solidarity have strengthened the bonds among our countries. However, we need to evolve a common strategy to forestall and prepare for natural disasters, to be ready to take appropriate measures, to minimize both death and destruction, and to cooperate to provide relief assistance when disasters strike.

I am happy to note that a group of experts had already been commissioned studying the problem in its entirety and we keenly await the findings of this study.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates: May I also draw attention to a problem that is beginning to assume a serious proportion in our region. This is the spread of narcotics which is threatening our societies, perverting our youth, and undermining our developmental efforts.

The People's Party government is determined to crack down on the narcotics trade and intends to take effective measures to rid our country of this cancer. We regard drug trafficking as a crime against humanity and shall combat it with every means at our disposal. Addiction to narcotics and the narcotics trade know no frontiers.

The tentacles of this inhuman business reach out from one end of the world to the other. International cooperation in eradicating drug trade and abuse will be greatly strengthened by cooperation to that end among the countries of the South Asian region, which is becoming one of the important world centers of the drug trade.

It is therefore a matter of particular satisfaction to note that considerable progress has been achieved under SAARC in evolving a framework for regional cooperation to fight this threat of narcotics. This cooperation has to be made much effective and we must jointly make an effort on a war footing to banish this cancer from our societies and prevent it from spreading abroad.

Among the proposals for increasing awareness of the urgency of the problem is the designation of 1989 as a year of the war against narcotics. I am sure the proposal will receive the support of the conference and the Secretariat will help the governments to draw out an effective program of activities for the year.

We have also proposed, and I am glad to learn that all members have agreed, that we should adopt a program entitled SAARC 2000 for regional cooperation to meet the basic needs of all our people.

Majesties and Excellencies: The year that is about to close has been one of the most hopeful one for peace in the world. Many difficult and intractable regional conflicts have moved closer to solution.

In our own region, the signing of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan marks an important step toward the restoration of peace in the war ravaged land.

We are hopeful that with the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva accords, the people of Afghanistan will be able to pick up their lives where they were interrupted by a long and unnecessary war. The end of the war will also open up new possibilities for cooperation and strengthen peace in the region as a whole.

Pakistan, which welcomed three million Afghan refugees as brothers in our midst, wishes to see them return to their homes in peace. Let the Afghan people as a whole be free to determine the future of their country. There are signs of movement toward the peaceful resolution of long-standing conflicts in Cyprus, Western Sahara, Kampuchea, Angola, and Namibia.

The costly and bitter conflict between Iran and Iraq has come to an end, and even that most intractable of all issues, Palestine, may have moved an important step nearer solution as a result of the recent developments and the valiant efforts of the Palestinian people.

The most significant developments are those that have taken place in relation to the superpowers which has led to an important treaty between them on eliminating intermediate range nuclear weapons from Europe.

This has been followed by other proposals and other moves which, if they materialize, could completely transform the strategic situation in Europe and perhaps put to an end to the cold war which has dominated the world politics since the end of World War II and cast its shadow on practically every part of the world.

At the same time we see China and the Soviet Union moving toward a reapprochement and this is a significant development for our region. We welcome these developments which are bound to have an important and salutary effect on the South Asia region.

A real change is coming over international relations and preconceived ideas and long-held strategic notions are giving way to new approaches in consonance with the

economic and technological realities of today. We, the heads of government and state of South Asian states, owe it to our people to take a fresh look at the aims, objectives, and the policies we are following.

Unresolved disputes, mutual suspicions, and rivalries have divided our countries in the past and kept them from coming together wholeheartedly in joint endeavors for the good of all our people. Some of us are spending too great a proportion of our national resources on defense, maintaining large military forces that face each other.

The truth is that our people face many of the same common problems, the problems of poverty, slums, disease, ignorance, and unemployment, and it is to vanquishing these enemies that we should direct our efforts. Even the greatest military powers have come to realize that they cannot carry the burden of a spiralling arms race. Vietnam and Afghanistan have shown the limits of military power as an instrument of policy.

The fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq has demonstrated at great cost in human lives and material resources the futility of war as a means of attaining national aims. It is therefore time that we should seek and consider ways of limiting our arms expenditures and seek regional solutions for curbing the arms race and the danger of nuclear proliferation and (?war).

One of the great benefits of SAARC is that it brings together heads of state and government of member countries to meet periodically to discuss all matters in friendship and candor.

I should like to conclude by expressing the hope that we should use the present occasion to take stock of the situation in the region and in the world at large and to adjust our policies to the new realities and bring them in accord with the desire and need of our people for peace and prosperity in a region free of the danger of war. Thank you.

Gandhi Addresses Opening Session

BK2912162588 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1415 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Speech by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to the opening session of the fourth SAARC summit in the conference hall of the State Bank in Islamabad—live]

[Excerpt] Madam Chairperson, Your Majesties, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, friends: I am delighted to be in Islamabad on my first visit to your beautiful capital.

I am particularly happy to be here, when the people of Pakistan have elected you, Madam Prime Minister, to lead your great country forward to progress and prosperity, rooted in democracy.

I bring greetings to the people of Pakistan from their sisters and brothers in India. We rejoice in the prospect of friendship and cooperation between India and Pakistan.

May I also congratulate you, Your Excellency, on your election as chairperson of SAARC and for the wonderful arrangements that you have made for this meeting and for our stay here.

I would also like to thank His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah for his handling of SAARC during this past year.

We are at a historic conjuncture in world affairs. In the 13 months since we last met momentous events have taken place, which are fundamentally altering the world and the world order. In basic thrust and direction, these developments are of a positive nature.

Following the treaty concluded between President Gorbachev and President Reagan, an entire nuclear weapon system is being dismantled.

This is reinforced by the agreement in principle to effect strategic arms cut. It is the first time since the invention of nuclear weapons that the world has gone beyond a mind set limited to nuclear arms control and proceeded to an act of nuclear arms reduction. Better understanding between the major military powers is finding reflection in a palpable relaxation of tension in various parts of the world.

The Geneva accords on Afghanistan have set in motion a process which could lead to the establishment of a government based on national consensus ensuring a sovereign, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan, provided only that all the parties concerned respect the accords and sincerely cooperate in implementing them. To our immediate West the Iran-Iraq war has thankfully ended.

In Palestine, radical change is in the air. Our brother Yasir 'Arafat has proclaimed the Palestinian state, which all of us have welcomed and many of us have recognized. Reassuringly, dialogue has commenced between the United States and the PLO.

In Southeast Asia, possibilities are emerging for a solution to the conflict in Kampuchea. In Africa, the people of Namibia are now being given the promise that the independence plan adopted by the Security Council 10 years ago is at long last going to be implemented.

I have just visited China to launch a new beginning in India-China relations, marking a turning point in our bilateral relationship and reviving cooperation between us in working toward a new world order based on the Pancasila, the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Tensions between the Soviet Union and China are showing every sign of being progressively defused.

Near our home, we responded immediately to the request for assistance from our friendly and democratic neighbor, the Maldives, to thwart the invasion by foreign mercenaries aimed at subverting the democratic will of the people.

In Sri Lanka, in consequence of the agreement signed between President Junius Jayewardene and me, the unity and integrity of that country have been consolidated even as a large segment of the electorate defying the threats of terrorists and extremists, has turned up at the polls to elect new provincial council and the new president.

We in SAARC will greatly miss President Jayewardene's wisdom and guidance. I wish to pay tributes to his sagacity and statesmanship. He has always considered himself a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi. He is a patriot with abiding love for all his people. We wish him many more years of service to his country and to our region.

Here in Pakistan, democratic elections have led to the installation of a new government under your distinguished leadership giving rise to hope everywhere in the subcontinent of a new dawn of friendship and cooperation between us.

Taken together, all these events presage change of profound significance in our region, in the world, and to the world order needed to sustain peace and promote development.

Can it, however, be said that the South Asian regional cooperation has grown at a pace commensurate with developments of fundamental significance to the international community and to the emerging world order?

In light of our present response to the new challenges and in comparison to other regional groupings, we appear today to be (?lagging behind). However, we can cast our minds to the time when Bangladesh took the initiative in launching regional cooperation in South Asia. Our responses demonstrated imagination and innovation. At that time there was great tension in the world, nor was our region free of tension.

The forward-looking decision to forge ahead with South Asian cooperation was, therefore, for its time an expression of optimism in the future, a vote of confidence in cooperation over confrontation, a pledge to bridge distances, whether geographical or those of the minds, a promise to our people to bring them closer together. We have made a good beginning. But is the good beginning enough?

Do we not need to accelerate the pace of our progress? The changes taking place in the world are opening unprecedented opportunities, we are also posing unprecedented challenges. It is a duty we owe to our people, severally as sovereign independent nation and jointly as the most populous regional group in the world, to consolidate cooperation in South Asia.

At this time of change we owe it to our people to ensure that the world moves forward in directions which suit our national interests, promote our regional interest, and bring into being a world order which meets our needs, matches our expectations, and reflects our aspiration, and brings peace and peaceful coexistence.

We have the inestimable advantage of all of us belonging to the Nonaligned Movement. There is a nonaligned world view which posits an alternative to the rivalries of bloc politics, the confrontation of military pacts, the death dealing dangers of deterrence, and the fear, hatred, and violence which permeates the existing international order. The nonaligned world view looks to a world beyond nuclear weapons.

The nonaligned world view looks to peaceful coexistence as the underpinning of the world order required to sustain a world beyond nuclear weapons. The nonaligned world view replaces fears with confidence, hatred with goodwill, and violence with peace and peaceful coexistence anchored in nonviolence as a way of life.

In sketching a new world order, the Nonaligned Movement draws its inspiration from the Charter of the United Nations. It would be necessary to further democratize and strengthen the UN system to undertake the monitoring and verification required to give worldwide confidence in the new world order.

It would also be necessary to utilize the forums of the United Nations for promoting the new international economic order which is indispensable to sustaining the new international political order.

It is also in these forums that we must forge the world cooperation required for environmental conservation to ensure sustainable development, the preservation of outer space for exclusively peaceful uses and to conserve the cultural heritage of human civilization. It is to the fulfillment of these great and noble tasks that our minds must be attuned.

A South Asia turned inwards upon itself, preoccupied with petty quarrels, is not a South Asia which can fulfill its pledges to its people, nor a South Asia which can make the contribution which it must to the emerging world order. If we fail to place South Asia in the vanguard of the caravan of human destiny, we shall find our destiny placed in the hands of others.

We shall find the world order evolving that does not accord with our aims, we shall find our interests mortgaged to the interests of others, our hopes put in [word indistinct] to the ambition of others, our independence compromised, our freedom jeopardized.

On the other hand, there would be no resisting a self-confident, forward-looking South Asia, a billion people representing a fifth of human kind. It is for us to determine whether South Asia's response to the challenges of the new order will be the broken voice of the fragmented region, or the voice of a region at harmony with itself, drawing its strength from peace and cooperation between its constituent countries.

Our cooperation in South Asia must be informed by this larger vision. We have laid sound foundations. It took courage to do so when we did. Do we now have the courage to make the imaginative move that will take our cooperation into the new dimension necessary to meet the new challenges? Without such imagination, our cooperation runs the danger of being channeled into narrow grooves.

South Asian cooperation has to be made a living, throbbing reality for the hundreds of millions of our people. There has to be a South Asian consciousness and awareness of what as a region we wish to make of ourselves, of what as a region we strive toward, of what as a region we stand for, of what as a region we mean to the world.

Until we make SAARC a people's movement, its achievements will lie recorded only in the dusty files or moulder in the cabinet of our bureaucracy. Regional cooperation, which is peripheral to the life of our people and the work of our government is not a cooperation worthy of the needs of our region nor of our region's role in the world affairs, nor of what we can as a region achieve.

Let us break all barriers. To begin with let us remove the restrictions that stand in the way of a free flow of information. Let there be a churning of knowledge, a dawning of mutual recognition and understanding, a mutual exchange of ideas, thoughts and sentiments.

I would hope that such a free flow of information will lead to the dismantling of all the restrictions that stand in the way of our people getting to know each other, meeting each other, interacting with each other.

SAARC will start becoming a tangible reality when people of South Asia find that without [words indistinct] hindrance they can travel around the region. Our people must be involved and enthused so that on the tide of the people's wishes our cooperation surges forward.

I would suggest that we reflect upon three types of measures that might enable us to move in this direction. First, the primary problem before each of our countries in the region and in our region as a whole is the removal of poverty. In each of our countries our highest priority is the war on poverty.

For South Asian regional cooperation to be meaningful to our people, it must be associated as closely as possible with the development at the grass roots. It is then that its significance for our people will become most apparent. We are all developing countries at roughly similar stages of development. There is much we can learn from each other.

There is a treasure house of shared experience we can draw upon. We also need to strengthen linkages between ourselves to give us strength individually and as a region. This calls for increased economic exchanges within our region covering the gamut of economic activity from agriculture to industry, infrastructure, technology, and human resource developments. Economic cooperation must lie at the heart of regional cooperation.

There has to be a degree of harmonization to ensure that complimentarities in our economies are matched to give strength to our respective economies and strength to avoid an influence in world forum. This will enable us to make our full contribution to the restructuring of the present international economic order, which is fundamentally unequal and unjust. Yet, we shy away from trade and economic cooperation.

At our last summit we commended the work of our planners in areas related to trade and economic cooperation and established a group of experts to work out the terms of reference for such cooperation. In over a year, all we have had is a second meeting of planners and a first meeting of experts.

We have not taken even one full step down the road towards regional cooperation of a kind which interfaces with our people on development issue at the grass root.

How can regional cooperation become a reality for our people if it remains so far removed from their daily (?substance)? If we play with shadows and allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by apprehension, cooperation and development will remain a mirage.

And without cooperation and development, South Asian regional cooperation will remain peripheral to the lives of our people. Given the disparity in size, levels of development and degrees of diversification in the economies of the countries constituting our association, there will, of course, have to be special measures, and safeguards will tend to any scheme of regional cooperation to protect the interest of each of us and to promote the common interest of all.

India has no hesitation in declaring at the outset that it is fully conscious of its special obligations and special responsibilities. We will not seek to secure any unfair advantage at the expense of any of our partners. Indeed, the interest of none of us can be secured by damaging the interest of anyone else. [passage omitted]

Bhutto, Gandhi Hold Talks

BK3012051088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will have extensive talks with the Pakistani prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today. Bilateral issues are likely to assume importance in their talks.

After attending the inaugural session of the fourth SAARC summit, Mr Gandhi had first round of talks with Ms Bhutto over a private dinner last night.

They will meet again tomorrow for another round of talks, while the delegates of India and Pakistan will have their plenary session.

The AIR correspondent, Ratan Salve, reports that some agreements are likely to be signed between New Delhi and Islamabad after bilateral talks.

The information and broadcasting minister, Mr Bhagat, and the urban development minister, Mrs Mohsina Kidwai, are reaching Islamabad today to participate in the plenary round of talks.

Egypt

Paper Accuses Israel of Being Behind Plane Crash

NC2912220588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2056 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has accused Israel of being behind the crash of the American airliner over Scotland last week, in which 258 passengers and crew members were killed.

In its editorial in tomorrow's edition, the paper says that the primary beneficiary from this incident is the party which is seeking in every way to prevent any dialogue from taking place between the United States, to which the aircraft belonged, and the PLO, using the U.S. warning that Washington will halt its dialogue with the PLO should there be any terrorist act attributed to the PLO.

The paper notes: If we add to this the British authorities' announcement that a number of Jews were arrested at the site of the tragedy while they were collecting pieces of the aircraft's debris, which would naturally have revealed the cause of the U.S. airliner's crash, any (?impartial) investigator will obtain clues to the true perpetrators of this hideous crime.

The paper points put that in light of Israel's record in planning this type of crime, by which it aims to incriminate Palestinian or Arab elements, the finger of accusation will immediately point at the real culprit who benefits from blowing up the U.S. plane.

It is an inhumane method, which the Mosad, Israel's intelligence service, does not hesitate to use without any twinge of regret.

MENA Notes Mubarak Comments on Debt Problem

NC3012065988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has asserted that the debt problem has begun to annoy and disturb all the world's countries, rich and poor, depending on the circumstances of each country.

He noted that the debt problem and debt rescheduling as well as concentration on the issue of development in Egypt will govern all foreign and domestic moves over the next year.

In his statements to Friday's edition of AL-AHRAM newspaper, the president said the development process in the Third World or the poor nations has stumbled remarkably over the past 3 years because of increasing debts and their interest requirements.

He noted that the developing nations' debts over this period have risen from $900 billion to over $1,100 billion. He said: It may seem that the developing countries are receiving new financing or loans, but in fact this is not true at all. Only one quarter of these debts actually represents new financing; the rest truly represent increased debt because of accumulated interest as well as the interest on delayed repayment.

The president remarked that the rich countries have also begun to complain because the poor countries have halted imports of machinery and equipment, which represent 40 percent of the aggregate output of the rich countries' factories.

He added that this threatens the continuation of these industries and their economic profits in addition to the fact that this may lead to recession and unemployment.

Despite this difficult and complex situation facing both the rich and the poor, he continued, the rich countries still insist on not increasing their aid or financing the poor nations unless they receive a green light from international financial institutions, confirming the poor nations' acceptance of the traditional prescription imposed by the IMF. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) regrettably shares this practice with the IMF now.

The president explained that the international financial institutions always concentrate on only the financial aspect of this prescription, which naturally affects the social dimension in the debtor nation. This is something that the governments cannot ignore even if they admitted that they are somewhat slow on the road to economic and social reforms.

Mustafa Views Belgrade Talks, Tripartite Treaty

NC2712194788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1658 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Dec (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, has described his talks with Yugoslav officials yesterday and today as fruitful and positive.

Interviewed by MENA, he said his talks with the Yugoslav minister of foreign trade had centered on bilateral commercial ties, especially trade, and that they had reviewed the volume of trade between the two countries in recent years as well as economic relations in general.

He pointed out that it is essential for bilateral relations to be developed and enhanced so that they may reach the level of the developing and excellent political ties linking the two countres. He noted that the volume of economic exchange does not match the level of political relations at all; the level of economic exchange is very low, he said, and therefore it must be strengthened and developed.

Dr Mustafa said that foremost among the issues discussed were ways of increasing Egyptian exports to Yugoslavia. Statistics of trade between the two countries indicate a great deficit in Egyptian exports, which totaled

approximately $22 million in 1988, while imports from Yugoslavia reached about $151 million; this big gap favors Yugoslavia, he stated.

He noted that this imbalance of trade in Yugoslavia's favor is of long standing, and pointed out that Egypt's exports in 1983 were worth $32.5 million while imports from Yugoslavia were valued at $179 million. This deficit continued throughout the years from 1983 to 1987 he said.

Dr Mustafa referred to recent economic changes in Yugoslavia and to the alteration in its trade policy, noting that these changes have opened the door for Yugoslavia to import consumer goods that were formerly banned.

He announced that an agreement has been concluded whereby Yugoslavia will import consumer goods from Egypt to the value of about $50 million, including fruit juice and canned vegetables, among other things.

The economy minister said his talks in Belgrade also dealt with bilateral coordination at international conferences and organizations dealing with economy and trade as well with the results of the recent GATT conference in Montreal.

Commenting on the tripartite agreement which was signed by Egypt, India, and Yugoslavia in Belgrade today, he said a comprehensive review was made of the list of commodities being exchanged among the three countries that are subject to low customs tariffs, in accordance with the provisions of the tripartite agreement.

He remarked that the purpose of this review was to create a balance in the mutual interests of the three countries, to eliminate the trade imbalance from which Egypt had suffered, and to specify new ways of technical and economic cooperation. Dr Mustafa stressed that the new accord will achieve a balance in the interest of the three countries.

Commentary Denounces Israeli Autonomy Proposals
NC2912170988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Israel Is Trying To Abort the PNC Resolutions"]

[Text] The features of the Israeli plan to thwart the proclamation of the new Palestinian state and negotiations through an international conference to determine the status of the occupied Palestinian lands are becoming clear.

A spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has declared that the Israeli prime minister has ideas regarding the establishment of peace in the Middle East. These ideas are summed up in the holding of elections in the Israeli occupied territories for the establishment of Palestinian self-rule.

It is evident that this plan aims at circumventing the declaration of the new Palestinian state and at aborting the PNC resolutions. The PLO Executive Committee has rejected and denounced this Israeli plan, saying it is not a maneuver but a political plan opposed to the Palestinian political plan.

The PLO Executive Committee called on world public opinion to beware of Israeli deception. It also stressed the need for Israel's withdrawal and called for the occupied territories to be placed under temporary UN supervision for a transitional period.

It is known that Yitzhaq Shamir is trying to revive the part of the Camp David agreement that deals with the Palestinian issue. This part of the agreement specifies the establishment of self-rule in the Palestinian lands for an interim period, after which the final status of the occupied lands will be determined.

It is also known that Israel deliberately aborted these talks on Palestinian self-rule in the past. The United States then participated in these talks in its capacity as a partner in the peace process.

During these talks it transpired that Israel was not serious about enabling the Palestinian people to determine their future by themselves and that its aim was to grant the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip a kind of administrative self-rule.

In other words, Israel wanted to give the Palestinians nominal self-rule, while retaining political, economic, and military control of the occupied territories for itself.

Thus the Palestinian people in the occupied territories would become merely a workforce serving the Israeli economy, and the entity and identity of the Palestinian people would come to an end.

In one of his statements, President Mubarak declared that the Camp David formula on self-rule was no longer acceptable. Thus he exposed the Israeli aims. He also stressed that the situation has changed and that there have been new developments which we must take into consideration.

In fact, if we want to comment on Shamir's ideas or plans for the occupied Arab territories, we will only find that these ideas and plans are detached from the new reality, namely the reality of the situation after the PNC resolutions and the reality of the continuing Palestinian uprising.

These ideas and plans are only a waste of time and will ultimately fail, because the Palestinian people are determined to decide their future by themselves, in freedom, and without any intervention by Israel or others.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Appeals for Hostages' Release

LD2912195288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1925 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has made the following statement to JANA:

While we address our thanks to Fatah Revolutionary Council for releasing the two little French girls, in response to the appeal I made to all those who hold hostages in the Middle East to release them on the occasion of the birth of the Messiah (Christmas)—may God's peace be upon him—I regret that their mother and the other hostages were not also released.

Once again I ask Fatah-Revolutionary Council and the other liberation movements in the Middle East to respond to my appeal for the release of the remaining hostages on this holy occasion.

JANA Editor on Extension of U.S. Sanctions

LD2912161188 Tripoli JANA in English 1454 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The U.S. President Reagan has extended the abortive U.S. sanctions against Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Voice of America Radio has said today that Reagan, in an official note sent to the (?Congress) yesterday, has said that Libya represents an unusual threat to U.S. interests and to U.S. national security.

JANA's international affairs editor has commented on the above by stressing the following points:

First: Great al-Jamahiriyah will not be subjugated to the spirit of U.S. hegemony and control. All U.S. attempts that are hostile to Great al-Jamahiriyah will be foiled by the firm stand of the Libyan Arab people.

Second: Great Al-Jamahiriyah believes in defending of Arab integrity. The Libyan Arab people has resolved to live as a strong people with a free will to draw up a (?program) for its economic and social life end in connection with its options designated as a means through which it builds the bases of civilized action. [sentence as received]

Third: The Libyan Arab people has foiled the so-called U.S. economic sanctions in that Great Al-Jamahiriyah has not been given donations by anybody. It adopts progress to safeguard its political and economic independence which Reagan regards as terrorism.

Arab Parliament Head on U.S. 'Terrorist Threat'

LD2912152388 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. Abdul-Rahman al-Borawi [spelling of name as received], chairman of Arab (?Parliament) Association arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Commenting to JANA, Mr. al-Borawi has expressed his happiness and pleasure to be in Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

He has reconfirmed that all Arab parliaments and people stand alongside the Libyan Arab people in encountering U.S. terrorist threats directed by U.S. President against the people of Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

He has reaffirmed that any threat against the Libyan Arab people represents a threat against the entire Arab nation.

Polish Bureau Denies U.S. Plant Accusations

LD2712162088 Warsaw PAP in English 1500 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Text] Warsaw, Dec. 27—In connection with accusations made by President Reagan about the construction of a chemical weapon's plant in Libya and an announcement on the possibility of a military action against the country the Warsaw-based People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah conveyed to PAP a statement firmly denying these accusations.

The bureau's statement points to the fact that this announcement creates a dangerous situation, especially at a time when prospects for peace emerge all over the world and all the nations of the world want the new year to be a year security and peace.

"We want to stress once again that this plant is a pharmaceutical plant and that on the Libyan land there is no factory whatsoever producing chemical weapons," the statement read.

"To confirm the credibility of these words and the falsity of Ronald Reagan's slander, we declare that the gates to this plant will be open to all the ambassadors accredited in Jamahiriyah and to mass media representatives to make it possible for them to go and see for themselves what the production profile of this plant really is," it said.

Envoy in Damascus Receives Palestinian Group
LD3012110188 Tripoli JANA in English 0843 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Al-Kanun [December], 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of Great Jamahiriyah's Relations Bureau in Damascus held a meeting before noon yesterday with a delegation from the Palestinian national leaderships.

The delegation confirmed the standing of the Palestinian national leadership and the masses of the Palestine Arab people by the side of Great Jamahiriyah and the leader of its great revolution in the face of the new U.S. imperialist attack.

The delegation also asserted that the U.S. threats to Great Jamahiriyah at this time in particular is considered a part of the rigorous campaign against the Palestine Arab people and its fierce popular revolution in occupied Palestine which has entered its second year.

Sudan

Council of Ministers Issues Statement on Prices
EA2912155588 Omduran National Unity Radio in Arabic 1312 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Statement issued by the Council of Ministers in Khartoum on 29 December, read by Dr Taj al-Sirr Mustafa 'Abd al-Salam, minister of public communications—live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] This is National Unity radio. Dear citizen brothers, here is an important statement issued by the Council of Ministers today. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We broadcast a statement from the Council of Ministers:

[Al-Salam] Following the economic decisions taken recently by the Council of Ministers and the reaction to them from party organizations and the masses, the chairman of the Council of Ministers pledged to convene a meeting of the council to review those decisions.

The Council of Ministers held its emergency meeting this morning, Thursday 29 December 1988, under the chairmanship of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. It made the following decisions:

1. The Council of Ministers confirms its previous decisions on minimum salaries, removal of anomalies, and salary improvements effective from 1 December. It regards this as a way of ensuring fairness in determining the incomes of various groups, easing the suffering of workers caused by rises in the cost of living, and encouraging them to increase production.

The increments are now being prepared for the month of December. They will be paid to those to whom they are due during the first days of January, 1989.

2. The Council confirms its decision to subsidize sorghum at the rate already announced, to lighten the people's burden with regard to their staple food, as well as to improve food security and self-sufficiency.

3. The Council wishes to respond to appeals which have already been made from within the parties and to the national will which has been expressed in a decisive and democratic manner.

Therefore, the council has decided to rescind all its recent decisions on tax increases. Citizens should from this moment on buy their sugar rations at the old prices.

4. The Council confirms its intention to seek real tax revenue to compensate for the cost of the salary increases. The government does not intend to resort to borrowing from the Central Bank.

This would lead to a dangerous inflationary trend, completely erode the value of workers incomes, and destroy the national economy.

5. The Council confirms that it will make a final decision on real incomes after explaining the available options to public opinion and holding consultations with workers' organizations. That decision will be handed to the Constituent Assembly so that the Assembly may call the government to account, approve its policies, confirm its confidence in the government, and renew its mandate.

This is to confirm the role of representative democratic institutions in the face of the enemies of democracy who wish to exploit freedom for unconstitutional ends.

6. The chairman of the Council of Ministers will invite various concerned groups, such as workers' organizations, for consultations next Monday morning on the options available.

He will ask the Assembly speaker to convene Parliament for a special session. He will also hold a press conference at 1000 [0800 GMT] on Friday morning to explain the situation.

7. The Council of Ministers appeals to all workers to return to their places of work immediately.

It also appeals to all citizens to halt the parades and demonstrations during which the people expressed their views.

God grant us success!

'Gunman' Fires at Demonstrators 29 Dec; 1 Killed

LD3012111788 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 30 (SUNA)—One person was killed and nineteen others injured yesterday when an unidentified gunman opened fire at the demonstrators in front of the Council of Ministers.

Police also used intensive tear gas to disperse the crowd which gathered before the Cabinet premises and an unspecified number of people were injured. The injuries are not serious however.

'Calm' Returns to Khartoum; Strike Called Off

LD3012112688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1014 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 30 (SUNA)—Calm has regained the national capital after three days of general strike which virtually put the country at a stand still and froze the life in the government offices.

Meanwhile the giant Sudanese Workers Trade Union Federation (SWTUF) has called off its general strike and urged workers to regain their work position.

The government has agreed to apply the new salary increases as from last July to all workers in the country.

Al-Mahdi Appoints Ministers After DUP Pullout

LD3012112588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1011 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 30, SUNA—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has accepted the resignation of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) ministers after the DUP's pullout from the government.

Al-Sadiq has delegated Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi the justice minister to carry out the job of foreign minister, Dr. 'Umar Nur al-Da'im finance minister for carrying out the missions of agriculture minister, Communications Minister Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa ['Abd al-Salam] delegated as health minister, Salah 'Abd al-Salam [al-Khalifah] cabinet affairs minister delegated as public works minister and al-Shaykh Mahjub Ja'far education minister as religious affairs and endowment minister.

SPLA Battalion Defects to Government Forces

EA2912151788 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English1358 GMT 27 Dec 88

[From "The Voice of Anya Nya II" program]

[Text] Waat—A battalion of SPLA under commander Lieutenant Colonel (Posh Shattay) has defected from SPLA with all his forces and joined Anya Nya II brigade at Waat District with Captain Kir (Bieir), and Anya Nya II headquarters has warmly welcomed them.

Kuwait

Minister Denies Talks on U.S. Military Bases

PM3012100588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Dec 88 pp 1-2

[Hisham al-Diwan report: "Kuwaiti Defense Minister to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have Not Discussed Establishment of Military or Naval Bases With Any U.S. Official"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir denied that Kuwait could have discussed with any U.S. military official or politician the question of providing military facilities for U.S. forces in the form of military land or naval bases on Kuwaiti territory or in its seaports or territorial waters.

In a statement exclusive to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the minister emphasized that Kuwait's policy in this regard is known and principled. It strongly refuses to discuss such a principle with the United States or others, regardless of reason or objective.

The Kuwaiti minister revealed that the GCC defense ministers are in the process of discussing the signification of a study conducted by a specialized GCC military committee on the possibility of setting up a military industry specializing in small items needed by the member states' armies.

This is seen as a trial run before a final decision is made to set up military industries for the production of specific types of weapons.

Shaykh Nawwaf ruled out the possibility of the GCC states setting up major military industries, at least at this or the next stage, because such a step is not feasible in view of the rapid advance in the field of arms diversification and development in the world.

The Kuwaiti defense minister also said that his country has not yet decided whether it will need to fly the U.S. flag over its tankers in the Gulf. He added that the unclear picture of negotiations currently being held in Geneva between Iraq and Iran does not encourage one to make a decision in this regard because of the difficulty in predicting developments in the region.

However, he expressed his hope that negotiations will be successful and the Arabian Gulf will see the beginning of a new phase of serious cooperation among the Gulf states and their neighbor, Iran.

The defense minister praised the recent GCC summit's results and resolutions. He said that the good spirit and goodwill in which the GCC leaders discussed common defense issues are bound to open broader horizons for the development of the current experiment of cooperation and coordination among the GCC states in order to make their defensive capabilities match developments in the region, particularly as the GCC states have learned lessons from the Iraq-Iran war, which, at one point, nearly put the region on the verge of war.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said Kuwait is in the process of modernizing and developing its defensive capabilities and plans to develop its naval units so they will become an effective force within the next 3 years.

Official on Extension of Radio Transmission

JN3012090888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Dec 88 p 5

[Excerpts] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Mansur, Information Ministry assistant under secretary for the radio station's affairs, has said that 1989 will be the year of Kuwaiti media, which will see comprehensive qualitative development, making the voice of Kuwait heard around the clock throughout the world.

Commenting on the announcement by Information Minister Shaykh Jabir al-Mubarak al-Hamad Al Sabah that Radio Kuwait will extend transmission of the main program around the clock beginning next year, Al-Mansur explained that transmission during the additional period will cover a wide area in the world due to the use of short waves.

It will carry to listeners in Kuwait, the Gulf, and the Arabian Peninsula, as well as to Arab communities in Europe and Islamic peoples in Southeast Asia many cultural, social, and religious programs in addition to highlighting Kuwait's political and news activities.

Discussing the programs that will be broadcast at dawn and early morning, he said that there will be news summaries at 0300, 0400, and 0500. There will also be a daily program on the Kuwaiti press at 0505 which will include news and headlines on Kuwaiti activities.

This program will not be a substitute for the normal press program broadcast at 0715 daily.

The radio will also air the call for dawn prayers throughout the year together with other religious programs appropriate for the late night and early morning prayers. [passage omitted]

On the extension of transmission for the music radio (FM) and the Koran radio, Dr al-Mansur said: The music radio will broadcast daily between 0600 and 0200.

The Koran radio will, as of 7 February, begin transmission at 1700 instead of 1900 and will end at midnight. The radio prepared well-thought of religious, educational, and cultural programs to raise, enlighten, and educate Muslim youths. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Meeting of Foreign Minister With Iranian Denied

LD3012141688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1402 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Dec (SPA)—An Arabic magazine published in London today, Friday 30 December, reports that His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, has had his first meeting in Geneva with the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in the presence of a number of ministers from the Gulf.

An authoritative source made a statement to SPA in which he completely denied this news item.

'Political Sources' Note Soviet Signals on Ties
TA3012102588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Dec 88 p A2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Jerusalem believes that President Mubarak wants to play a key role as mediator between the PLO, Jordan, and Israel and is waiting for some sign of flexibility on Shamir's part.

Political sources note an opening toward an understanding in view of Shamir's consent to U.S.-Soviet mediation and the agreement of the superpowers to limit the international conference to their dual sponsorship. The Soviets have recently given several indications that they are prepared to resume relations with Israel in exchange for the latter's agreement to launch negotiations with the Palestinians.

Sources in Jerusalem confirm that the Soviets have fulfilled another basic requisite: changing their emigration policy. The number of exit visas granted over the last few months puts the annual figure at approximately 50,000, more than had been demanded by Secretary of State George Shultz and then-Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

In view of the change in Moscow's emigration policy and the thousands of Soviet Jews arriving in the United States each month, Washington is even discussing the possibility of abolishing the refugee status granted to Soviet immigrants.

On the other hand, Moshe Arens at one time presented Shultz with a long list of additional demands in many spheres, including inviting Shamir to Moscow in exchange for Israel's consent to take part in peace talks under the aegis of the two superpowers. [passage omitted]

PLO Refuses To 'Bargain' on 'Uprising'
JN2812190688 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GTM 28 Dec 88

[Text] In Amman, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that the PLO refuses to discuss the issue of the uprising or bargain on it with any side.

He added that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz presented on 5 December a written statement to the PLO through the Swedish Government on the issue of the uprising and that the PLO categorically rejected this statement.

At a press conference in Amman today, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that the PLO Executive Committee will meet in Tunisia in mid-January to put the final touches on the reports to be presented by the competent committees on the formation of a provisional government.

He added that the formation of this government will be announced within the next 2 months.

Rabin Negotiating 'Amnesty' With 'Uprising' Leaders
TA3012103288 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 30 Dec 88 p 1

["Exclusive" report by Giyora Shamis and Louis Rapoport]

[Text] Jerusalem—While Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir publicly pursues a new Israeli-Egyptian peace initiative, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is seeking to achieve a truce in the intifadah [uprising] through contacts with the Palestinian leadership in the territories and, indirectly, abroad.

Defense Ministry officials have been in close touch with leaders of the intifadah, reportedly seeking to reach an agreement for a one-year cease-fire and subsequent elections in the territories, diplomatic sources have told THE NATION.

The quid pro quo would be an amnesty for many of the Palestinian prisoners and the guarantee that serious negotiations would be conducted with a Palestinian leadership elected in a local vote early in 1989.

Although it is not clear whether the two-pronged diplomatic effort is linked, political observers in Jerusalem speculated last night that a major step toward a settlement with the Palestinians is in the works.

Just before the November 1 general election, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj went to Bucharest to discuss with President Nicolae Ceausescu suggestions from Israeli leaders for a truce in the territories.

"I talked with President Ceausescu about it and I suggested he ask our friends the PLO to study the possibility of a UN-sponsored truce," said Frayj.

Ceausescu has often been a key go-between in Middle East peace efforts.

When 'Arafat visited Rumania earlier this month, he discussed the truce proposals with the Rumanian leader, and presented a list of his own demands that were to be relayed back to the Israelis, THE NATION has learned.

Ceausescu took it one step further, coming up with a detailed proposal for such a truce.

The Ceausescu plan suggests an immediate cessation of violence in the territories, and an agreement "in principle" by Israel to allow "international supervision" of the territories.

Israel would free Palestinian detainees in stages, and elections would be held in the West Bank and Gaza. The Rumanians made clear to the Palestinians and Israelis that the "international" role would be mainly a face-saving measure, but that there would be some kind of international supervision of the elections.

'Arafat has not yet responded to the Ceausescu plan. But last week he suggested that the intifadah leadership discuss the proposal.

A Palestinian source told THE NATION that the uprising's leadership had discussed the Ceausescu plan, and rejected it. "We didn't carry out the intifadah in order to see elections based on the Camp David formula," the sources said.

Last week, Rabin was presented with a plan for local elections in the territories, which he had ordered his senior aides to draw up earlier this month.

Sinyurah Denies Reports on Halting 'Uprising'

TA3012105088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 88 p A1

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] "All the reports in the last few days about requests to halt the intifadah [uprising] in order to open negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are speculations by the media."

This was stated yesterday by Hanna Sinyurah, one of the key PLO supporters in the territories, in reaction to reports about Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj's request from 'Arafat to stop the intifadah for 1 year to allow for the opening of negotiations.

"We would like to hear the Israeli proposals first, and then we will react," Sinyurah said. He added that 'Arafat himself has said that as long as Israel does not turn to a peaceful solution, the intifadah will not stop.

Sinyurah reacted with utter surprise to reports that negotiations are under way between figures in the territories and the Israeli authorities over holding elections in the territories.

"Elections based on Rabin and Peres' view, in a bid to create an alternative leadership, are totally unacceptable to us," Sinyurah concluded. [passage omitted]

[In a report by Roni Shaqed, 'Imanu'el Elneqave, David Regev, and Hayim Broida on page two, Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 30 December adds: "Reacting to reports on preparations for holding elections in the territories, the Civil Administration's spokesman said last night that the Civil Administration is not conducting any negotiations or talks with figures in the territories over such a possibility and noted that there are no negotiations whatsoever with the leaders of the intifadah."]

Ambassador Summoned Over Possible Mubarak Visit

TA2912195988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Prof Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador in Egypt, has been summoned for consultations in Jerusalem on issues on the agenda in Israeli-Egyptian relations, our correspondent Victor Nahmias has learned. The visit to Jerusalem is linked to the possibility that President Mubarak might visit Israel.

Our correspondent points out that this will be the first meeting between our ambassador in Egypt and the new foreign minister, Moshe Arens.

AL-FAJR on 'Condition' for Mubarak Visit

TA2912173588 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Dec 88 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Tests On the Road to Peace"]

[Text] The condition set by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for his potential visit to Israel during the coming few days is, in the present political reality, a natural response to the overall international position supported by almost all the countries of the world with the exception of Israel.

Various sources have confirmed that President Mubarak spoke candidly about his total readiness to visit Israel and meet with its prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, on one condition: that the Israeli Government announce its agreement to an international conference and its consent to open a dialogue with the PLO.

At least 90 governments have now recognized the new Palestinian state. Recent UN resolutions are clear and explicit in their pressing call to convene an international conference with the participation of all parties and countries concerned, including Palestine and Israel.

The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which took its first serious step in Tunis, provides many practical and realistic indications that it will be followed with further steps in the near future.

All this should push the new Israeli coalition government to formulate its position clearly without the customary subterfuge in old topics and ideas that are no longer alive and are unsuitable to confront the deep political changes that have taken place, and continue to take place, in the region and the whole world.

One of the most distinctive of these old and listless topics is being promoted now, whether seriously or not, by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and many of his Likud and Alignment ministers in order to negatively affect the steady international position.

The Egyptian condition within this context is in the interest of this vital push toward the formulation of the Israeli position which so far has been unbending in its political rigidity and in its reshuffling of old cards.

If the Israeli Government turns down this precondition, which includes a practical activation of the peace process in the region, it is in fact rejecting any real formulation of its political position, and consequently is rejecting all positive steps taken on the road to peace at the broad international, joint Arab, and clear Palestinian levels, in addition to the level represented by public opinion (54 percent) in Israel itself.

For how long will this Israeli rejection continue? And for how long will the status quo remain in the Israeli Government? The potential visit by the Egyptian president to Israel, with its precondition, is one of the early tests that addresses the answer to these questions. We do not believe that the waiting will be long.

Netanyahu on U.S.-PLO Talks, Pan Am Crash

TA2912152988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat does not mean what he says when he decries terrorism. Our correspondent Arye Golan adds that Netanyahu told a Jerusalem news conference that the U.S.-PLO talks weakens the U.S. struggle against terrorism, and gives hope to terrorist organizations around the world that if they persist they will receive U.S. legitimacy in the long run.

In reply to a question, deputy minister Netanyahu said that we do not know who blew up the Pan American aircraft, but we know who uses such explosives and the PLO is one of them. Nevertheless, there are many possibilities. [passage omitted]

U.S.-PLO Talks Protested at U.S. Consulate

TA2912201588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Excerpt] There was a demonstration outside the U.S. Consulate in West Jerusalem by Jewish students from the United States. Some 300 people marched to the consulate and held banners protesting the U.S. decision to open a political dialogue with the PLO.

Our police affairs correspondent Uri Aharonov reports that the demonstration was orderly, and that besides the organizers there were also representatives of various groups protesting the developing ties between the United States and the PLO. [passage omitted]

'Disappointment' Expressed Over Turkish Policy

NC3012090088 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 27 Dec 88 p 13

[Hadi Uluengin report: "Turkey has Created Disappointment"]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—In an exclusive statement to CUMHURIYET, a high-ranking Israeli Foreign Ministry official has stated that Turkey's recognition of the independent State of Palestine "has created disappointment." [passage omitted]

Preferring to remain anonymous, the very high-ranking official at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, who also is responsible for the Turkish affairs desk, asserted that what he said reflected the views of Shim'on Peres, deputy prime minister and leader of Israel's Labor Party. [passage omitted]

Regarding the question of Turkey's recognition of the independent state of Palestine and the effect this will have on relations between Ankara and Jerusalem, the official said:

"Turkey did not consult us before it recognized the independent state of Palestine. When we summoned the Turkish charge d'affaires, we were informed that Turkey's decision did not concern relations between Turkey and Israel. This reply is inadequate and unrealistic. This would be like Israel moving to make official contacts with the Kurds and Armenians, and saying that the decision does not concern relations between Israel and Turkey. Ankara's decision, particularly the fact that it was adopted without consultations with Israel, has created serious disappointment."

Noting that Turkey regarded its contacts with Israel as a "ghost" which could threaten its relations with the Arab world, the official asserted that relations between Israel and Turkey could not have any effect on Ankara's relations with the Arab capitals. He said:

"We know the Arab countries very well. If their blackmailing policy is "accepted," then the side that extends a hand to them stands to lose an arm. The Arab capitals directed pressure on many countries in Europe because of their relations with Israel. Only the FRG clearly informed the leader of one of the Arab countries, when he visited Bonn, that it would not reconsider its relations with Israel. If we were to consider the fact that of all the European countries, the FRG has the largest trade volume with the Arab countries, then it will become obvious that relations between the FRG and Israel do not have an effect on the FRG's relations with the other countries in the region. That Turkey is a Muslim country makes no difference. In view of this, we will welcome a decision by Turkey to reverse the move it made to unilaterally reduce its ambassadorial relations with Israel to the level of charge d'affaires. Israel is prepared to send an ambassador to Turkey at any time." [passage omitted]

U.S. Claims on PLO Dialogue 'Hypocritical'

TA2812152088 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Dec 88 p A14

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "What Did the Ex-Leaker Disclose"—boldface as published]

[Excerpts] On the eve of his departure, outgoing U.S. Ambassador Pickering took pains to convince us that Washington's agreement to launch negotiations with the PLO, after the latter accepted all the U.S. conditions, does not represent a shift in favor of the PLO's main goal—namely, establishing a Palestinian state.

If there is anything in Pickering's painstaking effort that does not comfort us, it is the comforting statements themselves.

It is true that according to the "Reagan plan" from September 1982, and the "Shultz initiative" from March of this year, the U.S. policy, as Pickering insists on reminding us, does not favor a Palestinian state. However, he who says "a" in spite of himself, or even willingly, will say "b" as well. Or else what are they going to discuss?

Is there any comfort in the fact that Washington did not consult Israel and supposedly agreed to some Swedish initiative that pressed the PLO to accept the U.S. terms?

As far as political moves in the area are concerned, there is a disconnection between Jerusalem and Washington. The U.S. initiative to hold talks with the PLO deserves close attention in this context. It would be naive to assume that one day—as is the impression given by Pickering's remarks—the Swedes came to the Americans and disclosed that all of a sudden the PLO was willing to accept their terms, and that the U.S., after examining the contents of the declaration, "insisted" on an unequivocal draft of the statement; only after the corrections came were they viewed as meeting the U.S. demands and the Americans agreed to open the dialogue.

The truth is that no change has taken place. The U.S. claim that if indeed it finds out that there is no change in the PLO's behavior, and 'Arafat does not meet the terms, the dialogue with the PLO will stop presents, much to our regret, a hypocritical attitude. The truth is that Washington was looking for a way to talk with the PLO all the time.

The U.S. convinced itself that without a real solution to the Palestinian problem no arrangement can be achieved in the Middle East. For one reason or another people tend to forget the development of the moves: first Shultz was looking for Kosher Palestinians—namely, those that would be acceptable to both Israel and the PLO. He further met with two U.S. professors of Palestinian origin.

On another opportunity, he invited Hanna Sinyurah and Abu Rahmah (Shamir objected to their visit at first, but relented under pressure), whom Shim'on Peres, then the foreign minister, had also sanctioned for the talks. When that effort also failed, the U.S. media suddenly teemed with articles urging the adoption of a "realistic approach" toward the PLO.

It is interesting to note that, entirely "by accident," the media offensive was accompanied by remarks made by President Reagan at that very point (24 February), which placed Israel's security needs on the same level as the Palestinians' legitimate rights. Only a few days later, in the course of a visit to Brussels, Shultz admitted that U.S. relations with the Palestinians are very important if a solution is to be attained. [passage omitted]

There are some members of Yitzhaq Shamir's entourage, too, who believe that the U.S. Administration does not genuinely seek a compromise with the PLO, but that it launched a dialogue to "pressure" Israel.

Specifically, the U.S. wanted to demonstrate to Shamir that if he is not willing to come to terms with the "Shultz initiative," which is none other than the legitimate offspring of the "Reagan plan" (once termed a recipe for a Palestinian state by Menahem Begin,) he will have to talk to the PLO.

"Talk to the PLO" about what? About the need to be assimilated into Jordan without any manifest representation in the peace process? The PLO complied with the U.S. conditions because Reagan spoke about Israel's security needs and the Palestinians' legitimate (according to Shultz—political!) rights in the same breath.

By "coincidence," Gorbachev too urged the PLO to recognize Israel, stressing that "resolving the question of self-determination and the recognition of Israel are vital basic points on the path to the establishment of peace and good neighborliness in the area."

Did 'Arafat heed Gorbachev's advice and accept the U.S. conditions in order to be allowed to be incorporated into Jordan? A breakthrough is the term used nowadays to describe the latest proposals: U.S. and Soviet aegis instead of an international conference.

In view of the similarity between the remarks of Reagan and Gorbachev, it is not certain whether the auspices of the two superpowers are preferable to an international conference. It is not the scope of the sponsorship that matters, but its content.

The prime minister's aides have begun hinting that Shamir intends to be "flexible" and to "make changes" in the Camp David Accords. This flexibility may be a sacrifice on Shamir's part, but it is doubtful whether it will satisfy Washington in the era of President Bush and Secretary of State Baker.

Nowadays, when an Israeli political initiative is being painstakingly prepared, only one question need be answered: What is it exactly that the United States intends to discuss with the PLO in their dialogue?

IDF Kills 3 Infiltrators From Egypt; 1 Escapes
TA2912145488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] The tracks of four people who infiltrated from the Egyptian side of the border into Israel were discovered yesterday. During the ensuing hunt a patrol discerned a suspicious vehicle south of Mizpe Ramon, moving northward. The force ordered the vehicle to stop.

When the passengers tried to run away the force opened fire on the vehicle, killing three of the passengers. The fourth ran westward and the search for him is continuing. The identity of the dead people is unknown. No weapons or documents have been found at the site of the incident. This was an IDF spokesman's announcement.

SLA Kills 'Terrorist' Near Kafr Falus
TA2912183288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers killed a terrorist near Kafr Falus who infiltrated to carry out an attack. A second terrorist managed to escape. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that none of the SLA soldiers was hurt.

IDF, Amal Exchange Fire in South Lebanon
TA3012062088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] An IDF unit exchanged fire with Amal men in southern Lebanon yesterday. No one was hurt.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Amal men fired at a unit traveling along the border of the security zone, and the unit returned the fire. UN sources reported exchanges of fire throughout the night between terrorist squads and IDF units in the area.

Katyushas Hit Galilee Panhandle; No Damage Caused
TA3012094988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanese territory into the Galilee Panhandle last night. No one in the area was hurt and no damage was caused.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that last night's shelling follows a long period in which the various terrorists elements refrained from firing Katyushas at the Galilee. As said, no one was hurt by the shelling and no damaged was caused.

Chopper Crash Near Egypt Due to 'Technical Hitch'
TA2912204588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Air Force pilot Lieutenant Mordekhay Sharon, 25, was killed today, and three soldiers were wounded when a CH-53 transport helicopter crashed in southern Israel.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the helicopter crashed due to a technical hitch while dropping border markers in Har Harif. The wounded were evacuated by an MFO helicopter to the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba.

Yitzhaq Romem, the medical head of the hospital, said that one of the men is suffering from moderate wounds, while the two others are only slightly hurt. [passage omitted]

Arens: 'No Doubt' Mideast Terror Act Caused Crash
TA3012113788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says there is no doubt in his mind that the sabotage of the Pan American airliner over Scotland approximately 10 days ago is the result of a Middle Eastern terrorist operation. Minister Arens refrained from naming any specific organization he believes was responsible for the deed.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that in a meeting with journalists in Jerusalem, the foreign minister said that as an avionics engineer he was convinced right from the start that the explosion of the plane did not result from a technical hitch, but from a terrorist operation.

Shamir Decides Not To Appoint 12th Likud Minister
TA3012055488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has decided not to appoint a 12th minister from the Likud to the government. Israel Radio has learned that in spite of this, a number of factions within the Likud Party will try to raise the issue following the local council elections.

Steps have already been taken by some party members to convene the Likud's Central Committee to discuss the matter, but, according to a legal opinion Shamir has sought, the decision did not have to be brought up before the Central Committee.

Disturbances, Curfews Reported in Territories

Jerusalem Bus Passenger Hurt

TA2912153688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] A woman was hurt when a stone was thrown at a No 23 bus as it passed Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the stone smashed the windshield. The woman was hit by flying glass. Police detained two people suspected of throwing the stone.

8 Reported Wounded in Unrest

TA2912175988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] There were mainly stoning incidents in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today in which Israeli vehicles were damaged. A bus was stoned near Bet Haggay. Its windshield was shattered and the driver was cut by flying glass.

Official military sources said a Nabulus resident was shot by IDF soldiers during stoning incidents in the casbah. The Ramallah hospital reported that two youths were shot and wounded, one in Ramallah and the other in the Al-Am'ari refugee camp.

The Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus reported that they received two gunshot patients, one from 'Anabta and the other from the Farah refugee camp. The Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem reported that a girl who was seriously wounded in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp was brought in. The reports by the hospitals are being checked by the IDF.

The Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria today closed two UNRWA schools, one in the Tulkarm refugee camp and the other in Qalqilyah, because students rioted.

The Al-Ahali Hospital in Gaza reported that three inhabitants of the Al-Burayj refugee camp were wounded during the dispersal of a riot.

There were also disturbances in Khan Yunus and the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 29 December reports: "Security forces imposed a curfew on 'Anabta in Samaria and the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip following unrest this morning."]

Further on 29 Dec Incidents

TA3012104688 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 88 p 5

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In Qalqilyah, local residents attacked Husayn Abu Hamami (30) yesterday for allegedly collaborating with Israel. His leg was fractured, and he was first transferred to the hospital in Tulkarm and then to another hospital in Israel.

Arab sources claim that the IDF imposed a curfew on Kafr Jammal. A firebomb was thrown at the municipal council building in Yattah in the Hebron area.

The IDF slightly injured five youths yesterday in the Gaza Strip. The youths, all aged between 15 and 17, participated in disturbances in the Strip. The spokesman for the IDF Southern Command said he knew nothing about any casualties and claimed that the Gaza Strip was quiet yesterday.

The unrest was felt mainly in Khan Yunus and Rafah, although incidents were also recorded in the Al-Shati' refugee camp and on the main streets of Gaza City. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 30 December, in a report by Dani Tzidqoni and Yitzhaq Meridor on page two, adds that "the IDF carried out a major operation in Al-Zahiriyah yesterday. Arab sources have reported that approximately 40 locals were detained on charges of organizing demonstrations." Other 29 December disturbances were reported in Bethlehem and the adjacent village of Nahallin.]

Rabbis' Visit Part of 'Improved Atmosphere'

TA2812115888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Dec 88 p 2

[Report by Hayim Shapiro]

[Excerpt] For the first time since the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, rabbis of Moscow and Leningrad arrived in this country yesterday. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said that although the Soviet authorities had previously granted visas to Israel for family visits and emigration purposes, this was the first time they had agreed to a visit by a group of religious leaders from Soviet cities.

"The visit opens a narrow channel of direct contact between Israel and the large Jewish community of the Soviet Union," said the spokesman, adding that it could be seen in the context of the improved atmosphere of Soviet-Israeli relations and especially the new Soviet attitude towards the Jewish community.

The Soviet-Jewish visitors are: Rabbi Adolf Avraham Shayevitch, of the Moscow community; Rabbi Boris Hayim Levitis, of the Leningrad community; and Aharon Litvan, the head of the Odesssa community; as well as three other representatives of the three cities.

They are here as guests of the Great Synagogue in Tel Aviv and are to remain in Israel for a fortnight. [passage omitted]

Spanish, French Foreign Ministers Planning Visit

TA3012112088 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Yaqir Tzur]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez will visit Israel next month.

The French minister's visit is scheduled for the 3d week of January, while the date for his Spanish counterpart's visit has not yet been finalized. Beginning on 1 January, the Spanish foreign minister will begin serving as president of the EEC.

Foreign Debt Drops to $25.5 Billion in September

TA3012112488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Dec 88 p 22

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Israel's foreign liabilities totalled $25.5 billion at the end of September, $600 million less than at the end of June, and about $1b. less than at the end of 1987.

The Bank of Israel, which published these figures yesterday, said about two-thirds of this drop was caused by the fall in the value of the dollar in the international markets. This caused a drop in the dollar value of Israel's debts denominated in European currencies. The rest of the drop in liabilities reflects government efforts to cut medium-term foreign debts.

The figures also showed that the drop in the country's foreign assets was larger than the fall in foreign liabilities. This was caused by a decrease in foreign currency reserves from June to September, and the fall in credits granted by Israeli exporters to their clients.

As a result of this, the foreign debt of Israel, net of all assets, rose from $18.9b. in June to $19.2b. at the end of September. This brought back the net foreign debt figure to its level at the end of 1986.

The central bank figures showed that the government's foreign debts dropped by about $168 million from June to September. Private sector debts fell by about $272m. and the banking system's debts dropped by $185m. in the third quarter of the year.

The assets of Israeli commercial banks abroad totalled $6,563m. at the end of September, $80m. more than at the end of June. The debts of the banking system totalled $11.4b. at the end of the third quarter of the year.

A reconversion plan of $2.5b. of Israel's government debt to the United States was implemented in September. Israel floated bonds worth $2.5b. in the American market.

This was reflected in the figures as a drop in the debts to the U.S. government, which fell from $10.2b. in June to $7.8b. in September. At the same time, Israel's liabilities to holders of its bonds went up from zero levels to $2.5b.

Ya'aqobi: No Decision Yet on Amos Satellite

TA2712074688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Dec 88

[Telephone interview with Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi by David Grossman—live]

[Excerpt] [Grossman] The fate of the Amos communication satellite is one of our topics this morning. Good morning, Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi.

[Ya'aqobi] Good morning.

[Grossman] Yesterday's reports said that you wish to go ahead with the development of the Amos communication satellite, despite the objections voiced by some factors and despite the fact that the prime minister has apparently put the project on hold.

[Ya'aqobi] No decision has been made yet, either by the prime minister or by any other factor. The reports on this matter were utterly groundless.

Before the elections, I asked that a discussion on the project be held with the participation of the prime minister and the defense, finance, and foreign ministers, in order to reach a decision. The timing, however, was not appropriate.

Now we must examine the matter thoroughly and decide whether the project can be developed. The required investment is about $300 million. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B Reports 'Atallah Move to Cairo

TA2912160988 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Dec 88 pp 1, 7

[Text] Nabulus—AL-SHA'B has learned from informed sources that in the wake of the closure of the offices of 'Atallah 'Atallah [Abu al-Za'im] in Amman, and the dismissal of the deputies who had deserted with him, the so-called Abu al-Za'im left for Cairo at the beginning of this week.

He is to reside there permanently, after the Egyptian Government granted him permission, as to any other ordinary person, in order to be with his family who have been residing in Cairo.

Before this, the so-called Abu al-Za'im had endeavored to go to the PLO representative in Cairo and ask to return to the ranks of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement [Fatah] as a member, and attend the PNC meetings which were held in the middle of November in Algiers.

His request, however, was rejected at the highest levels of the Fatah and PLO Central Committees.

All the offices seized by the so-called Abu al-Za'im and his clique at the beginning of 1986 have been returned to the PLO and Fatah after they were closed down by the Jordanian Government during the suspension of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination and the closure of Fatah offices in Amman.

Informed sources said that in the recent period only 15 of the defectors remained with Abu al-Za'im.

The weekly "AL-QUDS" magazine, which used to be published in the name of the Al-Za'im gang in Amman, was closed down last week.

King Husayn Views Palestinian Developments

PM2912162388 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 30 Dec 88 pp 17-20

[Interview with King Husayn by Milhim Karam in Amman; date not given]

[Text] Karam: Your Majesty, in connection with the latest developments, particularly the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, what prompted the United States to change its position?

King Husayn: The story began with the discussions and resolutions of the PNC session in Algiers. We may have had something to do with it to a certain extent because we responded to Palestinian and Arab requests for disengagement [from the West Bank] in what was a studied move, although it came as a surprise to some people.

It was in response to a Palestinian request, just as we did in the fifties when we responded to the unity wishes of our brothers. We have felt for some time that our brothers, the people of Palestine, whom we support with all our resources and capabilities and will continue to do so, have developed a sense and a desire to assert their identity and character and to shoulder their responsibilities directly.

And I am happy that we have contributed to the crystallization of that into a reality with our disengagement decision. As a result, we now deal with the brothers in the PLO and with the people of Palestine, having left behind all the unjustified complexities and suspicions of the past.

Naturally, the PNC resolutions were brave and wise and so was brother Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Geneva. I believe that he answered all the questions and was courageous, wise, and clear.

I also believe that he responded in that speech to all the demands and wishes which we had sensed and adopted over the past years in our contacts and dialogues with the various states in this world, including the United States. When he went even further than that at his news conference, making more clarifications, the United States could not but honor the position it had taken some time ago and, to that extent, it welcomed dialogue with the Palestinians.

That in itself is a good start at a time when the world is turning toward settlement of the problems threatening regional and global peace, as we see the Soviet Union and the United States cooperating to ease tension and to stop the arms race—having, between them, possessed enough to destroy the world many times over and having themselves suffered in all fields.

Naturally, there are progressive possibilities but I believe that we will see real progress when the new U.S. Administration assumes its responsibilities and the U.S.-Soviet dialogue is resumed. We have always asked: What is the Palestinian position and what is the Arab position? The Arab position is one of maximum possible support and backing for the Palestinian position, and the Palestinian position is that positive position expressed by Yasir 'Arafat in Geneva.

So, the world will not ignore this issue which happens to be most important, for Israel is a nuclear state and there are arms and real danger in this part of the world threatening not only everyone in this region but also world peace as a whole. I believe the way to tackle this issue is to hold an international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council, reflecting a worldwide desire to find a just, honorable, and durable solution to the problem.

I could be wrong, but I believe the next few months will witness the serious beginning of an attempt to settle this issue.

Karam: You have said that the conference would be held next spring. What makes you so reassuringly specific?

King Husayn: I believe a number of positive elements will begin to crsytallize by then. Furthermore, the new U.S. Administration will tackle the matter from the U.S. angle. I believe this issue will be one of the new administration's priorities. The new President will assume his responsibilities in late January and things will move in the spring.

Karam: Is the United States serious this time, in your view?

King Husayn: We are in the last days of President Reagan's term. Shultz opened the dialogue. The serious dialogue, in my view, will be with the new administration.

Karam: Do you think Bush's America will be different from Reagan's America?

King Husayn: I believe that Bush's America will be different from Reagan's America. I mean that, during President Reagan's term of office, we certainly saw fundamental changes in the world. In addition to that, perhaps one of the main reasons, was the new Soviet leadership which has been very dynamic and active.

However, I believe from personal experience that President's Reagan's thinking and work focused on other issues. The Middle East question was one of the issues he did not personally show interest in or know much about and so it was left to the State Department and the

secretary of state himself. I believe that the President-elect has vast experience in world affairs by virtue of his past posts—at the United Nations, as an ambassador, and as CIA director—and by virtue of his visits to various parts of the world.

Joint U.S.-Soviet work has begun and it is inconceivable that there would be no concentration on this region and on this particular problem which could, if it persists, pose a threat to everything that has been achieved and is likely to be achieved at the level of these two states and the world as a whole.

There are also the new president's personal capabilities acquired through experience and knowledge of the world and this particular issue. He also has a strong team on his side.

Karam: Is it possible to have a Palestinian state without confrontations with Israel and would the Palestinians be content with that limited geographical area without the entire occupied territory?

King Husayn: That question was answered by the PNC and by Yasir 'Arafat in his Geneva speech. Regarding Jordanian-Palestinian relations, to which you have referred, they are strong and solid. If they are to be rebuilt in any of the proposed ways, relations this time will be based on firm foundations and on mutual trust and real serious work. Thus, we will have done away with the complexes and suspicions of the past.

Karam: And what about Israel? How is it facing up to the situation? Will Israel shed its obstinacy or persist in it?

King Husayn: It may be obstinate for a while but it will be more and more isolated. It was always strong in the absence of a reasonable and responsible Palestinian stance and in the absence of Arab support for such a Palestinian stance. The picture now has changed completely and I believe that took them [the Israelis] by surprise and they have to reconsider their calculations.

Karam: King Husayn is the architect of Arab reconciliations and it has been said that the coming year will be the year of reconciliation. What does Your Majesty think of that?

King Husayn: I am confident that Arab accord and agreement to a large extent are inevitable and I will do my very best to achieve that in cooperation with our brothers in the great Arab homeland. I believe that matters will begin to shape up in favor of accord and agreement and in favor of an atmosphere totally different from that which the nation has had for many years. I add my effort to every good effort by the brothers toward that objective.

Karam: Will that manifest itself at King Fahd's summit in Riyadh as he promised the Arabs?

King Husayn: We hope and insist that it be achieved at the summit conference in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as soon as possible. We are trying to reach a point where we would know the chances of holding such a summit conference, which must be held. An Arab summit conference must be held soon and we hope it will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Karam: Would Egypt be invited to it as a full member?

King Husayn: The summit will tackle a number of issues, foremost of which will be Egypt's return to its position and importance. We cooperate with Egypt to the utmost. Egypt is led by a great Arab man, great in his conduct, ethics, and genuine belonging to this nation. That man is President Husni Mubarak. I believe Egypt will have a seat at any future Arab summit and I believe we are in the last stages of Egypt's absence from every serious and effective Arab action.

There is another aspect which I believe the Arab summit conference should tackle, namely, the Arab League charter and position. This matter must be reexamined and this institution must be revived, developed, and strengthened so that it may take its appropriate place and link the Arab brothers in their various groups. For example, there is Gulf cooperation and there are attempts to unite the ranks in the Arab Maghreb. We Arabs are making good efforts to organize ourselves.

The Arab League must be able to do its duty. An issue that must be tackled is that of the charter and of removing every obstacle that hinders every Arab action through the use of veto by one state or more. Accordingly, the majority has a right to move forward and to make decisions that serve Arab interests. The Palestinian brothers and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and also the Palestinian positions must be backed and supported.

Iraq must also be supported and a clear message sent out that what we want is not a truce between Iraq and Iran but real and complete peace based on firm foundations of mutual respect and noninterference in Arab and Iraqi internal affairs by Iran and noninterference in Iranian affairs by us. We want this phase to end.

Lebanon is also one of the main issues to be tackled. The time has come for the Arab powers to tackle that problem and we should not conclude our meetings before solving it.

Karam: Has the Iraq-Iran war ended or will negotiations lead to setbacks resulting in the resumption of military confrontations?

King Husayn: A cease-fire has been adopted, but slow progress has been made in negotiations. Iraq was responsive during negotiations over Resolution 598, both when

the Iranians were inside Iraqi territory and before the cease-fire decision, which was adopted after its forces were able to recapture all its territory.

Iraq is genuinely seeking a just and honorable peace with Iran. But there may be some attempts, and there seems to be some conditions, which make us feel that the situation reflects a state of cease-fire and truce, rather than true peace.

Everyone in the world must understand that when Iraq entered the war, it did so to defend the Arab entity and to prevent the establishment of a Persian empire at the expense of the Arab entity. We, however, will leave this in our hearts and look forward to opening a new chapter of true cooperation and accord with Muslim Iran.

But we must end the matter and reach the sought-after result, otherwise leaving the matter without a final solution would result in the exhaustion of Iraq's and Iran's resources—which we do not want at all, as that would be in no one's interests.

Therefore, the Arab nation, which Iraq has defended, must support Iraq in order for Iran and others to know that the Arab nation is cooperative and united in the face of any future threats or challenges by any quarter.

Karam: King Husayn is known for his love of all fraternal Arab states, especially Lebanon. Does Lebanon deserve an Arab summit, or will a solution to its crisis be discussed within the Riyadh summit?

King Husayn: I believe a solution will be discussed at any imminent summit. I think this requires agreement with all the parties concerned in Lebanon as well as the Arab parties which conditions forced to be part of the situation in Lebanon.

With regard to the reports we hear about solutions concerning the presidency and domestic reforms, I believe that the Arab summit must create a suitable atmosphere for a meeting among all the parties to the conflict. A dialogue must be held with them in order reach a final result, thus turning this page and restoring Lebanon's unity, stability, and sovereignty over its territory.

Karam: Do the solutions include all factions being invited to an Arab country hosting the summit?

King Husayn: I personally believe that is the sound solution. If we search for a solution, we must invite all parties to initiate a dialogue among them. The Arabs must support them in order to help achieve the objectives we are seeking.

Karam: You talked about Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said: We all must encourage Gorbachev because he is a phenomenon which we are prompted to adapt to and back. What is your view of this and the new initiatives launched by the Soviet leader?

King Husayn: I very much admire his initiatives and his personality. I was fortunate to meet with him. Our conversation was frank. We established a personal friendship of which I am extremely proud. I think he is a unique and extraordinary personality.

Karam: What are the GCC's benefits and what can we Arabs gain from them?

King Husayn: There have many benefits for the council's members. In my view, any agreement on cooperation and coordination among the brothers constitutes gains for the Arabs. Endeavors are being made to achieve similar cooperation in the Arab Maghreb. There are also serious studies in this part of the Arab world to achieve a similar situation. But the Arab League remains the correct framework for embracing us all and for coordinating our efforts in order to achieve future objectives.

Karam: Following [Algerian] President Chadli Bendjedid's election, what is your opinion of the man and the union which the Maghreb is seeking to achieve along the lines of the GCC and the EC?

King Husayn: Undoubtedly we welcome all this. As for President Chadli, I respect and like him. I consider him one of my dearest brothers and friends in the Arab world. He is an experienced man, sincere, and a noble Arab. As for the examples, I believe that if we look at the European example, we will find it a strong one. Europe—with its people of different origins, its multifaceted systems, its present, its past—together with the rest of the world experienced two world wars.

Despite all this, it made a modest start until it became, and soon will become, a power similar to the Soviet Union and the United States, that is, in terms of human and economic dimensions. The Arabs have many clear motives to establish among themselves a similar kind of cooperation that is not linked to individuals—cooperation which Arabs can feel and benefit from. They will then maintain and care about such activities.

Karam: Will more states recognize the proclaimed Palestinian state?

King Husayn: I think this will happen. We, however, said before the proclamation that when the state is established we would be the first to recognize it. And, praise be to God, we were among the first to do so and fulfill our promise.

Karam: Will inter-Palestinian differences be eliminated completely?

King Husayn: We hope so. But we support the PNC and its decisions. We also support the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and its leadership. We support its options and course.

Karam: The PLO announced its renunciation of international terrorism. Do you consider this renunciation final and will the PLO's announcement persuade the various factions?

King Husayn: I am confident that the PLO, its leadership in particular, is committed to its decisions and words. But no one in the world can guarantee that no extremist elements—whether Israeli, Zionist, or other quarters—will try to distort its image in one way or another. The true inclination of the PLO and its leadership—the inclination it is responsible for, is, as we believe and know, both genuine and true.

Karam: What about the other terrorism from which the uprising is suffering?

King Husayn: And this also is undoubtedly a mark of disgrace in history and flagrant faults by all Israelis calling for democracy and the protection of human rights.

Karam: Let us talk about international issues. [Romanian] President Ceausescu said: The Warsaw Pact and NATO have aged and must be abolished. Will such a proposal help ease world tension and perpetuate international detente?

King Husayn: With all respect to President Ceausescu, I do not know whether his proposal will lead to any results. But there is a new, auspicious atmosphere in the world.

Karam: The Jordanian dinar recently has been subjected to a large-scale campaign of speculation similar to that which the Lebanese pound experienced. Have these speculations anything to do with the IMF's advice to Jordan to devalue the Jordanian dinar? If this is so, does the Jordanian Government intend to respond to that advice and partially float the dinar?

King Husayn: The volume of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's foreign debts, both development and military, has been less than the Arab brothers decided for Jordan at the Baghdad summit. Regrettably, not all the Arab sisters have fulfilled their commitments toward Jordan under the Baghdad summit resolutions. And this is the main part of the problem. It is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alone which has fulfilled its commitments over that period.

Under the Baghdad summit resolutions we began to purchase weapons to improve our defensive position in the face of the threat and reality which we experienced at that time. We then began to face problems in meeting Arab commitments toward us. So we had a go at borrowing and taking up commercial loans in order to meet these obligations, until we reached the situation we are now in.

Despite the many promises, we still hope that the Arab brothers will be able to fulfill their commitments toward this country. Our concern has always been Jordan's credibility. We have settled all installments on schedule and we will continue to do so. We are convinced that Jordan must stand on its own feet.

Had it not been for these debts and the obligations resulting from an Arab resolution, the country would have been able to meet all its needs from its own various resources. We faced some difficulty with regard to foreign currency liquidity, the dollar in particular. We took the measures we took and did not wait for a foreign team to tell us what to do. But, when some people visited us recently, we asked them their opinion of the measures and what further steps can be taken.

The answer was encouraging. We were told: The measures you have taken are the ones needed in this kind of situation. Jordan has been different: Other states usually turn to international organizations and seek advice, but Jordan took its measures without seeking others' views. Jordan could have taken more measures, but the phase it is going through has been an easy one in comparison with the challenges and threats which faced us in the past.

Furthermore, the relative drop in the exchange rate of the dinar is a positive rather than negative factor. It may have a negative effect to some extent, but, in terms of results, we have found that this has helped us. For instance, our exports, whether agricultural or industrial, have doubled in comparison with the recent past.

At the same time, we expect revenues from tourism and other sectors to grow. We are determined at this phase to make this country an example and a model for others and to make it stand on its own feet without it needing to disturb anybody in the world.

Karam: Is is true that this aid has dropped by nearly $1.4 billion?

King Husayn: With regard to aid, Saudi Arabia has fulfilled its commitments in full. Some have fulfilled part of their commitments. Others have reduced this aid for special reasons. The important thing is that the volume of Jordan's foreign debts, both military and civil, is less than the unfulfilled aid.

Had it not been for this, there would have been no problem in Jordan. Despite all this, Jordan has made achievements at both the military and development levels.

Karam: Is it true that the drop in the Jordanian Central Bank's foreign currency reserve is attributable to the fact that most states have stopped fulfilling their obligations in terms of the funds decided at the Baghdad summit? And what does the government intend to do to cover this deficit and increase its foreign currency reserve?

King Husayn: We are taking whatever measures we can take. So moves and activities are continuing. The results, despite some negative aspects, have been positive. And, praise be to God, we are following the right path.

Karam: Is there any intention of borrowing from outside?

King Husayn: Not at present, neither from banks or anywhere else.

Karam: What stage has Jordan reached in oil and gas exploration, especially after the recent discoveries in the north?

King Husayn: The results are encouraging in the north and elsewhere and, God willing, all results will be positive.

Karam: What about the oil pipeline project proposed to be extended from Iraq to Al-'Aqabah?

King Husayn: Studies in this regard are suspended at present.

Karam: Do you think we will see, with great Arab joy, a reconciliation between President al-Asad and President Saddam Husayn, which you have made your own personal problem and exerted sincere efforts to achieve?

King Husayn: I still believe that Arab rapprochement, Arab accord, and Arab agreement must be secured at the broadest level. And we shall live this reality in the near future, God willing—which will satisfy Arab posterity.

Karam: Do you believe Iraq will be able to win the peace, just as it has won the war?

King Husayn: Yes, I am sure of this.

Karam: What have been the results of your call to use some European expertise to develop Arab industries?

King Husayn: There must be cooperation with the EC in order to achieve our objectives. I have always called for relatively moving away from the quarters on which we Arabs relied in the past. There are opportunities for dealing with Europe, of which we must make use.

Karam: Once again there has been talk about Jordan's purchase of U.S. arms. Is there any intention to purchase such arms?

King Husayn: There are Soviet weapons in Jordan, and these are operational in the Jordanian Armed Forces. There are also U.S. weapons.

For some years now, we have not imported any new weapons from the United States, the reason being the U.S. Congress' position toward Jordan.

We have begun to look for other alternatives, namely, Soviet and European alternatives.

Karam: Your Majesty King Husayn, are you satisfied with the domestic situation in Jordan?

King Husayn: Praise be to God.

Karam: If the people were asked if they are satisfied with their standard of living, would they overwhelmingly agree?

King Husayn: I believe a big difference exists between what any leader or person aspires to achieve for himself or for his family and the reality which he must live. This country's weapon is our people and their consciousness, sincerity, and truthfulness.

The simple shock we were exposed to had its positive aspect, as Jordanians have understood its dimensions as well as the fact that we must shoulder burdens in order to serve posterity. We must build, construct, and face the fact that we are still not an oil state, and our main wealth is the people. And, thank God, all results have been satisfactory.

Karam: Was the recent cabinet reshuffle based on this thinking?

King Husayn: The reshuffle was a natural thing; it is made from time to time in order to reexamine conditions in the light of new developments. Some of the brother colleagues moved from their positions to other positions. They were replaced by those who we believe can give the next stage what it deserves.

Karam: Does Jordan encourage the Palestinian uprising with all its capabilities?

King Husayn: Jordan supports the kinfolk, brothers, and sons of Palestine with all its capabilities and resources.

Karam: A final and general question, Your Majesty: Do you believe that world wars and disputes, any disputes, always erupt as a result of principled ideological reasons, or does the personal and individual element always play a role in these wars and disputes?

King Husayn: This is possible. And if this is the case, it would be a great mistake, for individuals will cease to exist and the people alone will remain.

Al-Qasim Receives Visiting PLO Delegation

JN2912175788 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at his office this morning Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Palestinian side to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, in the presence of Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO representative in Amman.

During the meeting, they reviewed the most important developments being witnessed by the Palestine question, which has entered an important phase following the accomplishments scored in the international arena. They also discussed the need to intensify efforts to build an effective Arab stand that will help accelerate endeavors to convene the international peace conference. They also reviewed the situation in the occupied territories and stressed the continuation of support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people to enable them to hold out on their land.

The conferees conducted a thorough review of the work of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee and ways to support its activities. Al-Qasim affirmed the constant Jordanian stand in support of the positive Palestinian orientation. He also paid tribute to the encouraging achievements scored by the Palestine question in the international arena.

Hostages' Release Followed Al-Qadhdhafi Appeal

NC2912160688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Walid Khalid, an official of the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC], commented on the release of the two French girls in Benghazi by saying that the release was a Christmas gesture and a response to an appeal from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who supports this Palestinian group and whose country is facing U.S. threats and accusations that it is building a chemical weapons plant.

RFL Links Syria to Bombing of Pan Am Plane

NC2912164388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The most outstanding issue today is that of the increasing signs that Syria is involved in and plans terrorist acts. The latest indication in this respect has emerged from investigations into the crash of the Pan Am plane over Scotland 10 days ago. [passage omitted]

The Italian newspaper IL GIORNALE has reported that the bombing of the American plane was carried out by an Arab commando group comprised of 11 terrorists.

These individuals traveled around under false names used Jordanian and other Arab passports.

The paper, citing U.S. and Israeli intelligence reports, affirmed that these terrorists belong to the PFLP-GC, which is led by Ahmad Jibril and is financed by Syria.

The Italian Communist Party newspaper L'UNITA says that a U.S. military strike against Syria or Libya has become a possibility which those two countries must take into account, in view of the fact that they are directly or indirectly responsible for the bombing.

The paper adds that the U.S. Department of Defense has several options of carrying out military attacks on Libyan and Syrian installations.

It remarked that the United States might use the highly accurate Cruise missiles instead of resorting to air raids which pose a risk to the pilots. The paper notes that Cruise missiles can be fired either from ships or from planes from a great distance. [passage omitted]

'Awn Discusses Syria's 'Bad Intentions'

NC3012123388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] During a meeting with the media's chief editors and directors today, Prime Minister Michel 'Awn disclosed that the question of a government expansion is under discussion. He added: We are prepared to expand the government in a manner that serves the public's intersts.

Regarding contacts with Syria, 'Awn said that these are bad on Syria's part. He added: When we assured Syria of our desire to have relations with it on the basis of respect for Lebanon, its independence and sovereignty, that country considered us hostile and described us as Zionized.

He explained that Syria harbors bad intentions toward Lebanon and seeks to swallow it up.

Concerning relations with Iraq, 'Awn described them as excellent, saying that Iraq is helping Lebanon to regain its sovereignty and independence. He emphasized that his own relations with the Lebanese Forces are good.

General 'Awn expressed his belief that 1989 will witness the beginning of the end of the crisis, despite the discouraging signs from some great states. He added: However, the sequence of events in the Middle East and the developments which have occurred and will occur will be in the interests of Lebanon.

Sfayr: No Answer to Submitted Candidates List

NC2912161688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr has announced that the answer to the list of names which he conveyed to the United States to be submitted to the Syrian officials and the other party has not been received yet.

He noted that he was asked to submit a list of names in preparation for new presidential elections after the will of the deputies had been frustrated. He said that he prepared the list following contacts with the United States, Saudi Arabia, and the Vatican.

Upper Galilee Rocketed With Grad Missiles

NC3012063688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Resistance men have rocketed the Upper Galilee area with grad missiles in retaliation for the Israeli air raid on the Al-Sultaniyah area yesterday. Flames were seen billowing from the scene.

Amal Clashes With Advancing Israeli Forces

NC2912155088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] According to reports from the South, a Zionist mechanized force attempted to advance toward Bra'shit and Shaqra this afternoon. A violent confrontation took place between fighters of the Lebanese Resistance Brigade-Amal and the attackers, lasting about 90 minutes.

According to resistance reports, the Israeli forces suffered an unspecified number of casualties in this clash. The Israeli force began to withdraw at 1530 today.

Amal Says Iranian Center Source of Terror, Plots

NC2912163288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] In a statement he issued today, a security source in the Amal Movement accused the Iranian cultural center of attacking and torturing citizens. The source expressed surprise that offices of diplomatic missions should turn into centers for terrorizing people, issuing religious rulings, and planning plots.

The source noted that an Amal Movement member was stopped outside the chancellery, beaten up, and insulted. His identity card and a Lebanese flag which was in his car were torn up.

The statement called on the Syrian Arab forces to open the closed road in front of the chancellery.

Center Responds to Claims

NC3012075788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] On the Amal Movement's tendentious campaign and allegations that two of its members were arrested and carted off to the cultural center of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a responsible source in the center responded saying:

We strongly refute such claims which are completely groundless. There have been no incidents whatsoever in the cultural center or its periphery. We urge the Syrian Arab forces to clarify their position on their interference in the fabricated incident.

The source went on to urge all newspapers and media to abide by the diplomatic norms and ethical principles and to contact the chancellery, which is a diplomatic cultural center affiliated to the Islamic Republic of Iran to verify the authenticity of any report.

Red Cross Hands Over Palestinian Fighters' Bodies

NC2912133288 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] At noon today the Palestinian organizations received from the Lebanese Red Cross the bodies of six martyrs who fell during clashes with the Zionist occupation forces in the past 24 hours.

The Fatah Movement Revolutionary Council received the bodies of martyrs Salim Jamal Muhsin, Nasir Qandil, and Fahd Sulayman.

The Palestinian Liberation Front received the bodies of martyrs Khalid Salih al-Ballati, 'Atif Khalil, and Nidal Jamil Abu Dargham.

The Red Cross had moved the six bodies from Marj 'Uyun hospital to its premises in Sidon.

Arab Ministerial Council To Convene 11 Jan

NC2912172688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] It has been officially announced in Tunis that the Arab Ministerial Council will meet on 11 January 1989 to discuss the Lebanese issue.

However, informed sources did not rule out another postponement of the Arab meeting if this is found necessary while the efforts to clear Arab differences continue.

Damascus, meanwhile, continues its attempts to prevent the meeting from taking place at all in order not to give the Arab countries the opportunity to discuss the Lebanese issue.

Forces Reportedly Placed on 'Maximum Alert'

JN2912184488 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 28 Dec 88 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] AL-SIYASAH has learned that during the past 24 hours, Syrian forces have been put on maximum alert.

However, it was not clear if this state of emergency was declared over military developments on the confrontation front with Israel over Lebanon or the crisis between the United States and Libya.

Well connected sources have asserted that instructions were issued in Syria to prevent anyone under arms from leaving the country.

However, the duration of or reason for this state of emergency, which was described as a class-A alert, were not clear.

President Views Relations With Egypt, Iraq

PM2912150788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Dec 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Asad: We Welcome Common Pan-Arab Action With Egypt"]

[Excerpt] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has stated that Syria always welcomes cooperation and common pan-Arab action with Egypt because this is in the interests of Syria, Egypt, and the Arab nation. He said Syria appreciates the importance of Egypt, its Arab role, as well as its people's sacrifices in common Arab struggle against the enemy.

During his meeting with the Arab Bar Association in Damascus yesterday, Al-Asad added that the issue of relations between Egypt and Syria prompts both countries to shoulder their responsibilities, as cooperation based on pan-Arab foundations has always been in the interests of Egypt, Syria, and the Arab nation.

He also said Syria always has supported, and always will support, Arab solidarity in the face of any threats against the Arab nation and its pan-Arab causes.

On Syrian-Iraqi relations, President al-Asad said attempts were made in the past to correct these relations, but they failed. He emphasized that Syria supports any Arab solidarity action, and such matters are left to future conditions and requirements.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS quoted official Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah as saying: This way, Damascus has opened the door to reconciliation with Cairo and Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Iran

JN2912192788 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening following a working 3-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran during which he conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' described his visit to Tehran as positive and said it will contribute toward promoting bilateral relations in all fields, particularly in the political and economic fields.

Responding to questions from reporters at the airport before departing Tehran, Al-Shar' said that during the visit relations between Syria and Iran were discussed and the importance of bolstering and expanding them was stressed.

He said: We also discussed the international situation, particularly the Palestine question, and the situation in the Gulf area after the cease-fire. He said viewpoints were identical on all issues that were raised.

AL-BA'TH Cited on Reagan Message to Shamir

JN3012082288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Dec 88

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms that Zionist terrorism removes the hopes for peace in the region. It says: While the world is ushering in a new year in the hope that it may herald glad tidings, we find the Zionist entity linking the years with one chain whose basis is terrorism, whose equipment is U.S. hardware, and whose mentality is that of racists who harbor grudges against people's aspirations and hopes.

Zionists and their allies regard the killing of Lebanese villagers as self-defense and the pursuit of terrorism against Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as maintenance of security. They also regard the desecration of holy places as freedom that confirms the Zionist entity's democracy.

In all of its phrases, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's message to the Zionist terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir only stressed continued U.S. support for Zionist policy.

Despite direct U.S. responsibility for people's security and peace—in the United States' capacity as a superpower—the contents of this message will consolidate the sanguine nature of the Zionist leadership and encourage it to continue the course of terrorism and crime.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says: Israel, which was established by means of terrorism, is the source of anxiety not only for Arab security but also for the whole world's

security. This is because the Zionist leadership only wants to disrupt disturb world security, as genuine peace is the real enemy of Zionists.

Paper Cited on U.S. Libyan Plant Accusations

JN3012085888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Dec 88

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Regarding the pretexts of the aggressive U.S. threats to Libya, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The colonialist circles are doing their best today to use the pretext of terrorism as a ready-made accusation that can be marketed whenever there are requirements for aggression against the Arab liberation movement and its national forces.

These circles viewed the Libyan medicine plant as a threat to world security and peace, thereby confusing once again the world-wide known concepts on distinguishing between terrorism and peoples' national struggle.

Even stranger than this is the fact that the terrrorist practices carried out by the occupation authorities—practices which include burying children alive, cutting open the abdomen of women, and slaughtering old men or burying them alive—which the world has witnessed, are regarded as legitimate practices by those who call for world security and peace.

On the other hand, the possession of a medicine plant by fraternal Libya or the possession by any other Arab country of a defensive weapon in view of the Zionist danger is regarded as terrorism that requires direct military aggression.

AL-THAWRAH explains that in order to make the world escape the whirlpool of genuine terrorism pursued by Zionism and imperialism as well as the deliberate confusion of the concept of peoples' national liberation struggle and the concept of terrorism; in order not to maintain terrorism as a slogan raised in the face of honorable strugglers; and in order not to turn the honor and sanctity of struggle with the passage of time into an accusation enjoyed by the Zionist intelligence circles as they please, Syria announced its responsible initiative through which President Al-Asad urged the world to hold an international conference in order to define terrorism and expose the terrorists.

Commentary Calls for Building Arab Power

JN2912164388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: A year full of events, developments, and catastrophes is over, and a new year, which holds so much for us, is approaching. Between this and that, we see in our Arab region the emergence of more than just a new state of affairs.

It is most important that there are two states of affairs. One is the state of those who found in international developments a path for relaxation and surrender, as if the bells had been rung to walk away from the trenches and combat dress and to hold to promises and dates that will soon change and disappear.

The second is the state of those who are preparing for new international developments on the basis of heading toward achieving justice and fairness, not injustice and increased coercion. The world cannot change to entrench aggression and award the aggressor, but it does change to benefit peace, bring justice to those subjected to aggression, and remove injustice and usurpation.

It is truly strange that those who follow the first state began to indicate that the region's question, which has preoccupied the world for around 40 years, got a lucky break in the year to which we are bidding farewell and is now on the road to a fast solution.

One sees only solutions made of words and concessions made by one side, which has reached the level of abandoning everything. Will the solution be achieved by abandoning every right and begging at the doors of those who faced these concessions with intransigence and definite rejectionist no's?

We were not surprised by the Zionist intransigence. We have never expected the Zionist mind to accept international developments and signs of international detente on the basis of returning rights to their owners and abandoning the weapon of aggression and threats from power. We would have been surprised had the issue been any different, because we understand well the nature of the entity that exists on the land of Palestine.

We are also deeply aware of the nature of Arab-Zionist conflict and its stages and courses. We do not care when others call us intransigent for adhering to this understanding and stressing it, because what has happened and continues to happen, from the establishment of Israel until now, has not changed our understanding, concept, and analysis of this conflict that has been going on for the past 40 years.

We say this to prove that those who make concessions and are tired of fighting will only reap greater losses for the cause and negatively influence the heroic uprising, which represents the lively symbol of this cause. The argument of embarrassing Israel, which they repeat on every occasion, is only a bit of wind, because anyone who has built his history on aggression, usurpation, and disdain for the resolutions of the international community will not pay attention to embarrassment.

On the other hand, why do not those who make concessions see the other path? Why did they choose to relax and sleep on the silk coverlets of promises? As there is ample room for massing and pressure, and as the Arab

situation has been appropriate more than once to support the cause and raise its prominence, would it not be better to turn our attention to effective Arab solidarity and escalate the uprising instead of playing the game of concessions and capitulation?

The uprising is now entering its 2d year with its own resources, scoring all these achievements for the pan-Arab cause. What would have happened if all Arab resources had been at its side? What would the situation be if Arab commitments made on paper at the Algiers summit had become reality? What would the whole situation be if all of those who pant after [a settlement] had stopped their panting and free concessions?

We do not want to assume the role of preachers and theoreticians. Realities will remain the same and not change with the temperature. No matter how the facts change, the world will neither support us more than we support ourselves nor will it support our cause more than we do.

The enemy we are facing will not abandon its project of a Torah-based empire stretching from the Euphrates to the Nile if it is not faced by a strong wall that corresponds to the power prepared for this project.

In all cases, and no matter how many concessions it finds, it will not accept the state instead of the empire. In its policy and nature, it believes that what it has obtained so far belongs to it alone, and it will not abandon anything for any regional or international consideration. It also believes that what others have belongs to it through negotiations, bargaining, or aggression if necessary.

Long years of experience and present facts probably underline these points for those who want to describe things as they are, not as they appear covered by acrobatic and theatrical acts.

Therefore, anyone is very mistaken to think that the solution is at the door and we only have to wait. If there is no effective Arab solidarity which will mass resources in the direction of the main battle ground; and if there is no adherence to the right and the land, we must not wait for peace to fall upon us or for the just solution to come to us as a gift on a silver or golden plate.

No one offers gifts for those who do not struggle for the sake of their cause. If the peoples who gained their rights, sovereignty, and independence, had sat down and waited for the gifts of peace, independence, and sovereignty, they would have received nothing.

In a cause such as our Arab cause, words and wishes mean nothing if they are not supported by material positions on the ground; that is, to build a force that matches the enemy's strength, deters intransigence and arrogance, changes the balance of power, and rectifies the defects in the existing equation.

Only then can one talk about just and honorable solutions to restore usurped rights and occupied territories. Then, the region can move from tension to tranquillity, from unrest to security, and from explosion to peace.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Attends PDPA Anniversary Meeting

LD3012062788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec 29 BAKHTAR—A grand meeting was held here on the occasion of the 24th year of the founding of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, with the participation of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA].

The meeting was attended by members of Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA, members of the Central Committee of the PDPA, vice-presidents, prime minister, chairmen of the both houses of the National Assembly and leaders of democratic left wing parties and other political parties as well as high-ranking party and government personnel.

The main speech of the meeting was read by Sulayman La'eq, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of border affairs.

The main speech noted that the PDPA has honestly announced that a broad-based coalition government can be created through democratic means and with the participation of all parties and political groups.

He in his speech supported the proposals made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet, to the 43rd session of UN General Assembly.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan based on mutual respect and non-intervention into the internal affairs of each other is in favour of improving its political relations with advanced capitalist countries.

Later, the message of Afghan pioneers was read by a pioneer on the occasion.

Similarly, the message of the Armed Forces of the RA was read. It was noted at the message that while the Armed Forces pay grand respect to the policy of national reconciliation, the Armed Forces fully understand their sensitive assignments for rushing those who rather continue war and bloodshed and disrupt peace in the country. [sentence as received]

'Jockeying for Position' Before USSR Pullout

BK3012042288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0404 GMT 30 Dec 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 30 (AFP)—Forty-five days before the pullout of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is complete, the different forces that have played a role in the nine-year war are jockeying for position.

Moscow is putting its hopes on former King Zahir Shah as a unifying force in a possible coalition. Soviet Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov met recently with the king in Rome, where the monarch has lived in exile since 1973.

The Soviet Union is also putting pressure on U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to call for a cease-fire in the war, a proposal put forth by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at a U.N. address this month, but Mr. Perez de Cuellar is balking at the idea, reliable sources here said.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar recently put himself in charge of the Afghan dossier, replacing U.N. negotiator Diego Cordovez, who had wrangled the April 14 Geneva peace accords for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan by February 15, 1989.

Important differences are separating Soviet and U.N. negotiators, say the sources. The United Nations, they said, especially criticize Mr. Vorontsov's meeting with the king, saying the mujahidin do not accept him.

U.N. negotiators however welcomed plans by the Communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to dissolve and install in its place a social-democratic styled party, said the same sources.

An official of the Soviet-backed Kabul government revealed the plans for the changes in the PDPA to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Wednesday, saying the Communist Party would change into a "liberal, nationalist and democratic party."

The new party would not be socialist and would follow liberal economic policies, said the official. It would be but one force among many in a future coalition government, he added.

The dissolution of the PDPA could add to tensions between hardliners and moderates within the party, say observers.

The U.S. and Pakistan-backed seven-party rebel alliance has always rejected the participation of the PDPA in any coalition government, and they disagree on the king.

Mr. Vorontsov, who also carries the title of Soviet deputy foreign minister, is to meet with the resistance leaders in Islamabad next week.

Zahir Shah is popular with the Afghan people, for whom his name evokes memories of a more peaceful era, observers say. But he never followed affairs of state very closely during his rule before 1973, they added.

His return is backed by Moscow and Kabul. Farid Zarif, personal foreign affairs adviser to Afghan President Najibullah, said the king could play an important role, calling him a "symbol."

But only the three moderate mujahidin leaders favour the monarch's return. The four fundamentalist Islamic leaders, representing the alliance's main fighting force, reject the king as a "bad Muslim."

The fundamentalists say the king was too much a modernist and followed policies during his rule that were too close to Moscow.

Zahir Shah remains non-committal, some say by character, others because he wants to assure the support of most mujahidin leaders before he agrees to lead a coalition government.

Mujahidin Down MiG-27 Aircraft of Kabul Regime
BK3012062888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan indicate that the mujahidin have intensified their struggle for freedom against the Kabul regime. The mujahidin shot down a MiG-27 fighter aircraft of the Kabul forces in the (Mandum) area of Farah Province.

The fighter aircraft was proceeding to bomb mujahidin positions. Another report says the mujahidin attacked a convoy of Kabul forces in the (Indrazkhan) area along Qandhar-Herat Highway, damaging a tank and two military vehicles. The mujahidin also attacked and damaged a military post in the Pashtun Zarghun area of Herat Province.

94 kg of Heroin Seized in Kabul 29 Dec
LD2912175088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Over 94 kg of heroin, brought into the country to make addicts of youths and teenagers, were discovered and seized today by the general anticrime department.

The BIA's military section reports that the heroin was worth about 14,000,138 [as heard] afghanis and was hidden in the Khialgol house, located in the (Paktiakot) region of Pol-e Charkhi in Kabul city. The case is under serious investigation.

India

2 Policemen, 2 Others Killed in Amritsar Bombing
BK3012044888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Agency reports from Amritsar say four persons were killed in a powerful bomb blast in Sharifpura area this morning. The killed included a police inspector and a head constable.

Police said the bomb was found lying outside a house and when the police officials went to investigate the bomb exploded, killing four persons and injuring two others.

Iran

Montazeri Receives Syrian Foreign Minister
JN2912171288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran—Ayatollah Montazeri received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Qom at noon today. Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati attended.

Al-Shar' conveyed the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad to Ayatollah Montazeri, who asked him to convey similar greetings to the president.

During the meeting, the results of the talks of Faruq al-Shar' with Iranian officials were reviewed.

Ayatollah Montazeri expressed satisfaction with the results of these talks. He affirmed the importance of bolstering relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ayatollah Montazeri paid tribute to Syria's vital role under President al-Asad in defending Arab and Islamic issues and its firm position in a forward trench in confronting the Zionist entity and its expansionist ambitions in the region.

Further on Meeting
NC3012134688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Our first news report is on the remarks made by His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri during his meeting yesterday with the Syrian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

According to the leader-designate, had the uprising and movement which have emerged in occupied Palestine in the name of Islam been initiated years ago, the Palestinian nation's revolution most certainly would have been victorious today and Palestine would have been returned to its rightful owners. Unfortunately, most of the Islamic countries have contented themselves with merely raising slogans in favor of Palestine.

His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri stressed that Syria's obligation is even more difficult than ours because it is on the frontline of struggle against Israel.

Of course, we also are dutybound to extend moral and material support to the best of our ability, but expectations of the Syrian authorities are even greater; that is, absolute and multilateral support for the Islamic resistance of Palestine, and the elimination of internecine and interorganizational differences between the Palestinian strugglers and fighters.

The Syrian Government should strengthen and bolster the Islamic resistance of the Palestinian nation with all its might and with the (?support) of all the Islamic governments.

We should not think that the task ends with the establishment of a Palestinian government. We, naturally, are in favor of retrieving every part of the usurped land of Israel, even if it is 1 inch. We are strongly opposed to the recognition and endorsement of Israel.

The setting up of a Palestinian government should be the first step in the commencement of a struggle against Israel. With the facilities provided for the setting up of a Palestinian government, the real holy war against the Zionist usurpers should be continued.

The leader-designate emphasized that the Syrian Government has a major role to play in this momentous obligation and expressed the hope that government will perform it in an efficient manner.

We should be confident that, after all the crimes and tyrannical acts they have committed in the course of history, the Jews and the Zionists eventually will be defeated at the hands of the Muslims.

His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri then recalled Syria's role in supporting the Lebanese mujahidin's Islamic resistance, and said: The Syrian authorities can play a great role in Lebanon in supporting and strengthening the unity of the ranks of the Lebanese mujahidin.

He said there is no doubt these differences and clashes, wherever they may be, especially in Lebanon and whether between the Sunnis and Shi'ites or between the brothers of Hizballah or Amal, all are created by the agents of Zionism and U.S. lackeys.

All the bloodshed and internal strife thus far has benefited the United States and Israel. We expect Syria to take steps to halt these clashes and differences in Lebanon so that all of the Islamic forces and their resources, whether Shi'ite or Sunni, Amal or Hizballah, and Palestinian, will be mobilized in a struggle against Israel.

He stressed that the government and power in Lebanon should be in the hands of the Muslim majority, which comprises two-thirds of the population, as its natural right.

The president should be elected from this majority, not at the behest of the U.S. President or Richard Murphy. In the past, the French colonialists had imposed a Maronite Christian president on the Lebanese people. This should not continue.

Of course, the rights of the religious and national minorities, whether in Lebanon or Palestine, should not be jeopardized. The rights of the minorities should be safeguarded under the aegis of the government of the Muslim majority, when it is established, God willing.

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri stressed that Islamic countries, with a population of 1 billion Muslims, should be self-confident and should rely on their own strength and nature and not on the great powers of the East and West to resolve their regional problems or conflicts.

Instead of having their fate decided in centers influenced by the great powers, they should resolve regional and internal disputes with strength, self-confidence, and in a reasonable manner.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD3012120688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Millions of Muslims all over our Islamic homeland today held the unity-creating Friday prayers rituals.

The people of Tehran, meanwhile, as on previous Fridays assembled at Tehran University and the nearby streets to hold the political-religious Friday prayers under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani. We begin this newscast with a report on the Tehran Friday prayers.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani referred to the grave responsibility of the authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran in serving the people and called on all officials, even those who only have small responsibilities, to refrain from being selfish and self-centered.

He said: The responsible authorities must at all times keep in mind the Islamic norms, laws, and the interests of the people. Stressing the importance of correct planning for the country's economic problems, the speaker said: We must begin planning to solve economic problems and in doing so we must pay attention to realism, to Islamic and revolutionary values, to the law, and the norms. And then we must implement the plans consistently.

Continuing his sermon he called on the wealthy to pay attention to people's affairs and to the revolution and also to help officials who are in the service of the people.

He then referred to Afghanistan. He noted the victories of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan in fighting the occupation forces and recommended that they should regard their victories—like all the victories of the Muslims—as being due to the blessing of God.

He also called on them to try to preserve the unity of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan more than ever before especially now that stronger unity and coalition exist among the Afghan mujahidin and also try to ensure that Afghanistan is closed to the agents of the East and the West.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani expressed his sorrow over the discord between the Muslim people of Lebanon. Urging Lebanese Muslims to unite and move toward solidarity, he said: If the Muslim nations of Lebanon and Palestine remain aware and on guard against the conspiracies of Zionism and global arrogance and their agents, then all these conspiracies can be neutralized.

Meanwhile, during the Tehran Friday prayers ceremonies, Muhammad Karim Khalili, spokesman for the eight-party Afghan Islamic coalition, referred to the fact that the Muslim nation of Afghanistan is now set to achieve a sensitive and final victory.

He said: Any talk about the future of Afghanistan is condemned to failure if the true representatives of that country are excluded. He also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan for their assistance to the Muslim Afghan nation.

Later, Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, spokesman for Afghan Islamic coalition, said: The Muslim Afghan nation demands the establishment of an Islamic government in that country, a government similar to that of Iran. The Muslim people will continue their struggle in that direction.

He also placed emphasis on the solidarity between the Muslim nations of Iran and Afghanistan and other Islamic nations.

Karrubi, GDR Envoy Discuss Chemical Weapons

LD2912172988 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 29 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA—Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to Tehran, Wolfgang Bator, today submitted invitations from GDR parliamentary speaker and vice-speaker for their Iranian counterparts.

Bator, in a meeting with majlis Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi also expressed his country's keenness for expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hailing East Berlin for its stance against the use of chemical weapons, Karrubi regretted that the world is yet to tackle the issue of chemical weapons seriously, "that's why the Iraqi regime used toxic weapons against Iranian people and Iraqi Kurds.

"Big powers talk too much about banning these weapons but in practice they refuse to condemn its use," Karrubi said.

He elsewhere referred to Iraqi impediments in the way of U.N. Resolution 598 and said world countries should campaign for implementation of international resolutions if they really do not want to witness wars and aggressions.

Deputy Prime Minister Mo'ayeri Interviewed

PM3012110488 Paris LE FIGARO in French 23 Dec 88 p 3

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister 'Alireza Mo'ayeri by Claude Lorieux in Tehran—date not given]

[Text] Tehran—"We now have normal, good relations with France. There is great potential in each of our countries for developing and consolidating these relations," 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Iranian deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, said in a long interview to LE FIGARO.

Mr Mo'ayeri, who played a decisive role in the normalization of relations between Tehran and Paris, stressed in this connection that three French delegations (one oil mission, three deputies, and a mission from the equipment ministry last week) have just visited the Islamic Republic.

"There is fertile ground for cooperation in rebuilding Iran" (after 8 years of war—LE FIGARO editor's note) he noted.

Prime Minister Musavi's deputy in charge of foreign affairs did not join editorialists in the official Iranian press who criticized [French Foreign Minister] Roland Dumas' recent visit to Baghdad with particular reference to a possible agreement for the assembly of Mirage 2000 and Alpha-Jet planes in Iraq.

"We have no comment to make about that visit," Mr Mo'ayeri said. "It is up to France to decide on its foreign policy.... The important thing is that such contacts should not damage the just relations which exist between France and Iran. Moreover, Mr Dumas is due to visit our country at the beginning of next year."

Kurdish Victims

The minister tackled other aspects of Franco-Iranian relations:

—The financial dispute (the 1 billion dollar loan made by the shah for a European nuclear project): "We have so far received around 630 million dollars.

We will continue the negotiations on the balance of our loan, including interest. These negotiations would also cover the damages which France claims to have suffered."

—The presence in France of opponents to the regime: "I have studied French law; it stipulates that people who take refuge in France must not engage in certain activities against their country of origin."

The minister admitted that these activities have been reduced in France (notably by the expulsion of Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq). However, he noted some "resumption."

"The former shah's son was authorized to visit France where he gave interviews and made comments. The Interior Ministry, which gives such permission, is responsible for that.... The FRG did not give him an entry visa."

—The "anxiety" expressed by [French Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs] Edwige Avice with regard to human rights, and, in particular, reports on numerous recent executions of political prisoners in Iran:

"We know that France has been very active in the human rights sphere.... But we have also noted that the French close their eyes and ears to some aspects of human rights. We will play an active part in the conference on chemical weapons which will start in Paris on 9 January. However, the victims of this chemical war have not been invited. Mas'ud Barzani, the leader of the Democratic Party of Iraqi Kurdistan, complained to us about that. The strangest thing is that the Iraqi regime, which killed thousands of people in that way, has been invited whereas the Kurds have not."

With regard to the execution of oppositionists, the deputy prime minister recalled the offensive launched by the Mojahedin-e Khalq based in Iraq "with the Iraqi regime's help" after Tehran accepted Resolution No 598 in July. "What is a country supposed to do if not defend itself? Many of the assailants were killed and many arrested. The latter were sentenced to death and whatever protests the world makes, we will not refrain from executing them. This has nothing to do with human rights...."

During this interview, 'Alireza Mo'ayeri reviewed the other main issues of Iranian foreign policy:

—Peace negotiations with Iraq: "Security Council Resolution No 598 must be systematically implemented, step by step. The first article relates to implementation of the cease-fire and the withdrawal of forces to international borders. But we have not even progressed beyond the implementation of the cease-fire. The Iraqi regime has created a deadlock by putting forward questions which have nothing to do with Resolution No 598.... These questions are clearing the Arvand River, which the Arabs call the Shatt al-'Arab, shipping in the Persian Gulf, and the exchange of prisoners. These questions are in later paragraphs of Resolution No 598.... How can we talk of cleaning up the waterway when the enemy is still occupying parts of our territory.... Moreover, we think that the Algiers agreement (signed between the shah and President Saddam Husayn in 1975) is the best and only way of solving these problems" (linked to the Shatt al-'Arab—LE FIGARO editor's note).

—Exporting the revolution "to the Arab monarchies in the Gulf": "We have explained to the leaders of the states in the region that we do not want to weaken or destabilize their regimes."

Washington and Moscow

—Acceptance of Israel's existence by 'Arafat: "On the whole we are in favor of the creation of a state, of a homeland which would cover the whole of occupied Palestine and not just the territories captured in 1967.... Palestinians and Jews would live side by side in such a homeland.... 'Arafat has moved away radically from what the Palestinian people wanted.... As far as we are concerned, there is no question of our recognizing Israel's existence.... We have been informed that some Palestinian groups (like George Habash's PFLP) have more or less accepted 'Arafat's position. However, it is not our job to express their views, we are expressing our views which are based on the Palestinian people's views."

— The easing of tension in relations between Egypt on the one hand and Syria and Libya, which are Iran's friends, on the other: "These two states have the right to change their attitude toward other countries.... The important issue is that neither Syria nor Libya has changed its attitude toward Iran despite their development."

—The United States: We see no change in the U.S. leadership's attitude toward our regime and our revolution. We therefore do not envisage the restoration of relations with the United States in the foreseeable future."

—Relations with the USSR: "Since the cease-fire, we have noted changes in the Soviet leadership's attitude toward us. It has taken a positive initiative with regard to Afghanistan. We have received assurances about Iraq, to which the USSR was supplying armaments during the war. The 11th session of the joint economic commission has just been held.... We have reached agreements.... We are neighbors.... We have 2,500 km of common borders. We must therefore have good relations. I think that in the next few months we will witness new developments which will strengthen Soviet-Iranian relations."

—Iran and the confrontation between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in Soviet Azerbaijan: "The majority of the inhabitants of Azerbaijan are Shi'ites, and of course their "source of inspiration" is Ayatollah Khomeyni. However, this does not mean that we are interfering in our neighbor's internal affairs.... We have played absolutely no role in the ethnic uprisings which have taken place in the Soviet republics.... However, there is a close relationship and an affection between the Soviet Azerbaijanis and the Iranian Azarbayjanis, just as there is between the peoples of France and Quebec."

Pakistan

Official Denies U.S. Contact Over Libya

LD3012101988 Tripoli JANA in English 0838 GMT 30 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Al-Kanun [December] 30, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The director of the Middle East Department at the Pakistani Foreign Ministry denied that the U.S. Government had contacted the Pakistani Government with regards to its threats against Great Jamahiriyah.

This denial came during a meeting the Pakistani official held with the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Islamabad.

Sri Lanka

Main Tamil Party Opposes 'Crucial' Referendum

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[Text] Colombo, Dec 30 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main Tamil political party Friday asked for the postponement of a crucial referendum in the island's multi-ethnic eastern region, saying such a vote would renew a demand for a separate Tamil state.

President Junius Jayewardene Thursday ordered the vote for July 5 in line with a New Delhi-backed ethnic peace pact. The referendum would decide whether a provisional merger between the country's eastern region and the Tamil-dominated north should continue.

Under the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, the two areas were united under a semi-autonomous Tamil majority provincial council last month, with a referendum later to decide whether the arrangement should continue.

"Any move to fix a date for the referendum without giving the provincial council time to settle down shows a total lack of bona fides on the part of the government," the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) said.

TULF leader Appapillai Amirthalingam warned that Mr. Jayewardene's order would create tension in the two areas and urged the government to cancel it immediately.

"This (order) can only lead to a renewal of the demand for a separate (Tamil) state," Mr. Amirthalingam told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Indian officials here said they had not been consulted in fixing the date for the referendum. "The unilateral announcement of the election is not in keeping with the spirit of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord," an Indian official said.

New Delhi has nearly 50,000 troops in the two areas to secure an arms surrender by Tamil guerrillas who rejected the peace pact and are continuing a separatist campaign.

The idea of a referendum was a compromise between Tamil demands for a larger area under their control and objections by minority Muslims and majority Sinhalese in the east to being governed by a Tamil council.

The dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has continued attacks against Sinhalese and Muslims in the Eastern Province in a bid to drive them out, fearing that the two groups together could tip the scales in a merger vote.

An estimated 10,000 people have died since the separatist campaign flared up in mid-1983. Five other Tamil groups have given up their demand for a separate homeland after accepting the peace pact.